



Washington State Fusion Center INFOCUS

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Events, Opportunities

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HEADLINE	10/06 Community colleges offer teaching degrees
SOURCE	https://apnews.com/article/community-college-degrees-teacher-jobs-57283c520ff7f21cacc90fcb25a63053
GIST	In her second-grade classroom outside Seattle, Fatima Nuñez Ardon often tells her students stories about everyday people realizing their dreams. One day, for example, she talked about Salvadoran American NASA astronaut Francisco Rubio and his journey to the International Space Station.

Another day, she told them her own life story — how she, an El Salvadoran immigrant who arrived in the U.S. in middle school speaking very little English, came to be a teacher.

Núñez Ardon took an unusual path to the classroom: She earned her teaching degree through evening classes at a community college, while living at home and raising her four children.

Community college-based teaching programs like this are rare, but growing. They can dramatically cut the cost and raise the convenience of earning a teaching degree, while making a job in education accessible to a wider diversity of people.

In Washington state, nine community colleges offer education degrees for teaching grade school and up. All of the programs started within the last decade.

Around the country, education programs remain far more common at four-year institutions. Six other states — Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Nevada and New Mexico — have community colleges that offer degrees related to K-12 education, according to Community College Baccalaureate Association data.

The expansion comes at a good time: [Teacher shortages have worsened](#) in the past decade, and fewer undergraduates are going into teacher training programs. The number of people completing a teacher-education program [declined by almost a third](#) between the 2008-09 and 2018-19 academic years, according to a report in March from the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education.

More community colleges around the country are starting to offer teacher education, said CCBA President Angela Kersenbrock. In all, 51 community college-based teaching programs have launched across the country since the early 2000s.

And they're attracting students like Núñez Ardon, who became certified to run a K-8 classroom in June, at the age of 36. It's likely she wouldn't have pursued a classroom career otherwise.

Teacher shortages predate the pandemic. For years, the number of people graduating from teacher education programs has fallen short of demand. In 2018, 57,000 fewer students nationwide earned education degrees than in 2011.

To fill gaps in staffing, schools in Washington state have had to turn to underqualified employees. The number of waivers granted for staff who had not completed certification requirements rose to 8,080 in the 2019-2020 school year, from less than 2,800 a decade prior, according to a 2021 report from the state's Professional Educator Standards Board.

The state in recent years has encouraged "Grow Your Own" programs, or alternative pathways to classroom certification. Some are run by schools, others by colleges. They're seen as a way to buffer the teacher shortage and to grow a workforce more representative of the student body. Statewide, 50% of Washington students are people of color, while 87% of classroom teachers are white.

At Yakima Valley College, like other Washington community colleges, teacher candidates are assigned a residency at a partner school for the second half of the two-year program.

Students must first have an associate degree before starting the program. Classes are primarily in the evenings. While juggling their work and school load, teacher candidates are also taking a series of tests required by the state to get certified.

"By the time they finish their residency, they have fulfilled all of their requirements not only of the program but also of the state," said Elizabeth Paulino, who runs Yakima Valley College's teacher education program.

There has been pushback against community college degree programs in education in Washington and nationally, as universities with teacher education programs grapple with declines in enrollment, said Debra

Bragg, the founder and former director of the University of Washington's Community College Research Initiatives.

Community colleges argue that they're a good place for teacher training because they're open-access — there is no selective admissions process — and that they “are attracting students that the universities probably are not attracting and probably won't attract,” she said.

Núñez Ardon said this was the case for her.

For one thing, she was place-bound by her growing family, and the nearby University of Washington doesn't offer a bachelor's degree in teacher education. Cost was another factor. The program Núñez Ardon attended at Highline College costs roughly \$7,100 a year — far less than nearby universities — and allowed her to live at home and accommodated her work schedule.

Many education programs at Washington community colleges grew in response to demand from local schools.

Connie Smejkal, Centralia College's dean of teacher education, said area superintendents were calling frequently to say they were struggling to hire and retain teachers.

“Their need was extraordinary,” she said.

In 2016, Centralia and Grays Harbor community colleges launched a teacher education program in collaboration, anticipating that neither would have enough students to run a full program on their own. Each planned to have an initial cohort of 12 teacher candidates. But student interest was high: There were more than 80 applicants to Centralia alone for the first cohort.

“We realized how thirsty the community was to become teachers,” Smejkal said. The next year, Centralia and Grays Harbor formed their own separate programs, and between the two schools, 175 people have completed degrees.

Smejkal said everyone from last year's cohort who was interested in classroom teaching had signed a contract with a school before graduating.

Peter Finch, superintendent of West Valley School District in Yakima, said he's experienced no shortage of general education teachers since the launch of Yakima Valley College's program.

He also said the teachers hired from the local program have so far been predominantly Latinx, and half had been bilingual Spanish-English speakers, better matching the district's student demographic and support needs.

Meanwhile, Núñez Ardon spends her days at Madrona Elementary School in SeaTac as a teacher and role model to young students she sees herself in — and in whom she hopes to inspire the same curiosity and passion to learn.

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HEADLINE	10/06 El Paso steps up migrant busing to NYC
SOURCE	https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/el-paso-texas-migrants/2022/10/06/id/1090686/
GIST	<p>The Democrat-led border city of El Paso, Texas, has sent more migrants on buses to New York City and Chicago than a campaign by Texas' Republican governor, a twist in an ongoing partisan battle over U.S. border security.</p> <p>El Paso, which sits across the border from Juarez, Mexico, has bused roughly 7,000 migrants to New York City since late August and sent more than 1,800 to Chicago, a city-run effort that far exceeds the more ad-hoc transportation of the past.</p>

The city's busing effort has received less attention than a separate statewide campaign by Texas Governor Greg Abbott, who is seeking a third term in Nov. 8 midterm elections. Abbott has bused more than 3,000 migrants to New York City and more than 900 to Chicago as part of a high profile campaign to put a spotlight on the record crossings at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Texas and Arizona combined have also bused over 10,000 migrants to Washington, D.C. Meanwhile, Florida's Republican Governor Ron DeSantis recently flew a group of about 50 migrants to Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, but those who boarded the planes have said they were misled.

The Republican initiatives to move migrants, including those seeking asylum, away from the border have called attention to the issue with the election just weeks away. A recent Reuters/Ipsos poll showed U.S. voters prefer them over Democrats for addressing immigration issues.

The Democrat administration of U.S. President Joe Biden and Democrat mayors receiving the migrants have criticized the Republican governors for creating confusion with surprise drop-offs and say the busing campaign strains resources.

But El Paso's Democrat leaders say they are coordinating with receiving cities and that migrants take their chartered buses voluntarily. City officials say their buses were needed because up to 2,000 migrants were arriving daily, including impoverished Venezuelans without family in the United States to pay for onward travel.

Coordination between sending and receiving cities is crucial, according to Theresa Cardinal Brown, a managing director with the Bipartisan Policy Center, a Washington-based think tank.

"If there's not coordination," she said, "you're basically dropping penniless people who don't speak the language in an unknown city and saying, 'Fend for yourself.'"

Still, El Paso's coordination could be better, said New York City mayoral spokesperson Kate Smart. El Paso informs New York when a bus is traveling to the city, but, she adds, officials from both states should discuss beforehand whether the bus actually needs to go New York and how many migrants are onboard.

Many of those sent to New York are Venezuelans, who have been arrested at the border in higher numbers than ever before. The United States cannot expel them to Mexico under a pandemic-era order as it can other migrants.

El Paso's program is not new: last year, the city hired a handful charter buses to transport migrants to nearby cities, a city official said.

But when overwhelmed U.S. border authorities began releasing hundreds of migrants at a time in El Paso in August and September, the city started busing to New York and Chicago.

The buses now depart from a converted warehouse in northeast El Paso that serves as a migrant processing center. On Monday, several hundred migrants waited for buses to New York City and Chicago, among them Frederick Pinango, 28, and his wife and 3-year-old daughter.

The Venezuelan family trekked through the Darien Gap, an often dangerous passage through a jungle separating Colombia and Panama. They worked their way through Central America and Mexico by cleaning bathrooms, emptying trash and begging, according to Pinango.

They took a bus to New York because they had no contacts in the United States and it was free.

"I have faith that they will help us with some shelter, so I can start to work," he said.

	<p>Edwin Rico, a 28-year-old Venezuelan who boarded a bus to Chicago on Monday, said the food that El Paso officials provided for the trip was not enough, but he rationed it.</p> <p>"I don't have money, so I'm grateful for the help," he said.</p> <p>El Paso Mayor Oscar Leeser, a Democrat, said the city's program is "completely different" than the other busing efforts and that they seek to "treat people with respect."</p> <p>New York City Mayor Eric Adams, also a Democrat, has slammed Abbott, the Republican governor, for his refusal to share information about bus arrivals. Adams said in a mid-September press conference that Leeser, unlike Abbott, was willing to meet and "figure out a humane way to coordinate."</p> <p>New York City officials traveled to El Paso last month to watch the process firsthand. During the visit, they discussed adding drop-off points in cities on the way to New York, Leeser said.</p> <p>El Paso keeps in contact with the Biden administration and is seeking federal reimbursement for busing costs, Leeser said, and a U.S. Department of Homeland Security spokesperson confirmed the coordination.</p> <p>"This is a federal issue," Leeser said. "They're not coming to El Paso, they're coming to the United States."</p>
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HEADLINE	10/05 GAO: US funded Chinese research
SOURCE	https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2022/oct/5/inside-ring-us-funded-chinese-research/
GIST	<p>Three federal government agencies provided millions of dollars directly to Chinese research centers between 2015 and 2021, according to a report by the congressional watchdog Governmental Accountability Office.</p> <p>The Pentagon, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institutes of Health supplied \$28.9 million to Chinese universities and research centers, GAO auditors found. The CDC gave about \$15 million and NIH provided \$13.6 million, while the Pentagon supplied \$400,000 in research funds. The money was used for applied and basic research.</p> <p>Additional U.S. funds were sent to Chinese research centers through "subawards" to U.S. and other firms that then supplied the money to China.</p> <p>CDC-funded research in China included work on "pathogenicity of emerging, re-emerging, and novel viruses and vaccination coverage and effectiveness." The GAO said it could not determine how much of the subawards went to China because of rules that allow awardees to keep data secret.</p> <p>Direct funds were not supplied to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, the Chinese laboratory engaged in risky work of manipulating bat coronaviruses to create strains more infectious to humans, called "gain of function" research. U.S. intelligence agencies say a lab accident from the Wuhan site remains one possible origin for the COVID-19 global pandemic first identified in the Chinese city. Wuhan's wild animal market is also suspected as a potential source of the virus.</p> <p>Wuhan University and the Institut Pasteur of Shanghai received \$500,000 in U.S. funds, the report said.</p> <p>China has refused to cooperate with U.S. and international investigators searching for the origin of the pandemic. Chinese officials have even blamed the United States for bringing the virus to China, a charge the U.S. government has denied.</p> <p>The NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases last month gave a \$653,000 grant to EcoHealth Alliance for bat coronavirus research in Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam. The funding was first reported by The Intercept.</p>

EcoHealth Alliance is led by **Peter Daszak**, who worked closely on bat research with China's **Shi Zhengli** at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Ms. Shi is known as "the bat woman of Wuhan" for her work. She has denied that the coronavirus behind COVID-19 leaked from the Wuhan lab, but Congress is investigating EcoHealth Alliance over its work in Wuhan.

The NIH stated in a letter to Congress in October 2021 that EcoHealth Alliance worked with the Wuhan institute in "testing if spike proteins from naturally occurring bat coronaviruses circulating in China were capable of binding to the human ACE2 receptor in a mouse model."

The letter, however, said the virus work by EcoHealth did not become the virus behind COVID.

The research was done under an NIH grant and contradicted repeated claims by **Dr. Anthony Fauci**, who plans to step down in December as chief medical adviser to the president, that no federal funding was used on virus work at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

According to GAO, the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention received around \$5 million and Peking University was granted \$8.8 million. Around \$11 million in funds were sent to research centers in Hong Kong.

Most of the funding was halted, but GAO investigators said the NIH and the CDC were continuing to fund research institutes in China as of July 2022.

Critics of the funding have said all U.S. money should be cut off to Chinese research centers until Beijing fully reveals the activities at the Wuhan site.

The report was requested by **Rep. Michael McCaul**, Texas Republican and chairman of the China Task Force, who said the GAO findings helped "pull back the curtain on American taxpayer dollars funding entities in China."

"Unfortunately, the tens of millions of dollars in research collaboration they found is only part of the full picture," Mr. McCaul said. "The Biden administration stopped the Office of Management and Budget's efforts to track federal spending in China that began under [former President Trump] at my request."

Mr. McCaul said he will continue working in Congress to track and halt U.S. money going to China that ends up ultimately in the coffers of the ruling Chinese Communist Party.

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HEADLINE	10/06 Ongoing DOJ decree in Seattle: 10yrs, \$10M
SOURCE	https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/crime/2022/10/06/doj-probe-reduced-police-use-of-force-in-seattle-but-at-a-high-cost/69527639007/
GIST	<p>The road to a federal consent decree mandating reforms in the Seattle Police Department began in 2010 after an American Indian wood carver crossed the street in front of a police cruiser and was shot to death.</p> <p>Then another officer was captured on video kicking a Latino man lying face down on a sidewalk and threatening to "beat the Mexican piss" out of him.</p> <p>In a report like the one the Department of Justice is expected to release soon on the Louisville Metro Police Department, it found a "pattern or practice" in Seattle of discriminatory policing and use of unnecessary or excessive force.</p> <p>Ten years and \$100 million later, a consent decree imposed on Seattle in July 2012 is still in force.</p>

A federal judge in 2020 was poised to find the department in full compliance and dissolve the decree. But then came months of rioting and unrest triggered by the death of George Floyd at the hands of police in Minneapolis.

Seattle's independent Office of Police Accountability [disclosed](#) it received some 12,000 complaints about police misconduct during the first few days of the protests alone. Those included a report that police had pepper-sprayed a young girl, punched a person on the ground and placed a knee on necks of two people – the cause of Floyd's death.

The accountability office also said officers covered up their badge numbers and failed to record enforcement activity on body-cameras.

Seattle's first court-appointed monitor, Merrick Bobb, told The Seattle Times that the police response to racial justice protests left "many observers disappointed and crestfallen, if not disturbed profoundly by what looked like multiple instances of excessive force, as if lessons learned and techniques trained under the consent decree were lost, or, at least, set aside."

He said the department and its rank and file had fought against reforms for years, including when 100 officers filed an ultimately unsuccessful lawsuit challenging the department's new policies for using force.

The federal judge overseeing the decree, James Robart, in 2019 declared the city out of compliance in the areas of discipline and accountability. The Washington Post reported he was "incensed" over a provision in the city's new police union contract that required the department to rehire an officer who had been fired for punching a woman while she was handcuffed."

But union leader Mike Solan, president of the Seattle Police Officers Guild, said in an interview that officers have supported the decree and were proud of making Seattle "a national model for police reform." He said it is unfair to blame police in Seattle for the "George Floyd tragedy" 1,400 miles away.

He acknowledged that nearly 500 officers have left the force in recent years – a decline of about one third. But he said the exodus was caused by the "politicization" of policing in Seattle, rather than antagonism toward the consent decree.

He cited a zealous campaign by the city council to "defund" the police and a proposal by two council members to fire white officers so Black officers with less seniority did not have to be laid off. Solan called the proposals blatant discrimination.

And he said the departure of so many officers has driven crime up and response times down.

Still, despite questions about the consent decree's execution and cost, even critics say it has done far more good than harm for the SPD.

According to the most recent report from its monitor, in April:

- Officer use of force declined 48% from 2015 to 2021.
- The most serious use of force, such as officers shoot of civilians, has decreased significantly. As a result, translating into safer interactions between police and the community.
- SPD officers have turned from "too quickly resorting to the use of batons" to almost never using them.

"The vast majority of SPD officers have embraced a new mission and values; worked to create a service-oriented culture; expanded knowledge and skills of crisis intervention, de-escalation, and less-lethal tactics; and committed to new policies and practice," the report said.

Still, the report concluded SPD must restore trust that the department lost during the protests and demonstrations and still must address discriminatory policing.

	<p>Council member Lisa Herbold, who chairs the department's public safety committee, noted that per capita, American Indians in 2021 were stopped nearly nine times as frequently as white people, and Black people were stopped over five times as frequently as white people.</p> <p>In an email, she said despite the consent decree police shootings of people experiencing mental health crises and armed only with knives continues.</p> <p>“The consent decree is not a silver bullet, Herbold said. “It is just one tool.”</p>
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HEADLINE	10/05 WTO points to possible recession
SOURCE	https://www.wsj.com/articles/sharp-slowdown-in-global-trade-points-to-possible-recession-lower-inflation-11664964002?mod=hp_lead_pos4
GIST	<p>World trade in goods is projected to slow sharply next year under the weight of high energy prices, rising interest rates and war-related disruptions, raising the risk of a global recession, according to a new forecast.</p> <p>Total exports and imports of goods are likely to grow by just 1% in 2023, the World Trade Organization said on Wednesday. That would be down from its previous forecast of 3.4% and its forecast of 3.5% for this year.</p> <p>The WTO also lowered its forecast for global economic growth in 2023 to 2.3% from earlier expectations of 3.3%, and warned of an even sharper slowdown should central banks raise interest rates too sharply in their efforts to tame high inflation.</p> <p>The report follows multiple signs that global economic growth is weakening.</p> <p>“The global economy faces a multipronged crisis,” Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, director-general of the WTO, the Geneva-based body responsible for enforcing the rules that govern global trade, told reporters in a news conference. “The picture for 2023 has darkened considerably.”</p> <p>The U.S. trade picture in August reflected the broad slowdown in demand. Exports of goods dropped 0.3% in August from the previous month, the first decline since January, the Commerce Department said Wednesday. Goods imports fell 1.5% during the same period.</p> <p>When including both goods and services—such as tourism, education and healthcare—total U.S. exports fell 0.3% in August from July, while imports decreased 1.1%. Because imports fell more than exports, the nation’s trade deficit shrank 4.3% last month. The strong dollar makes imports cheaper for U.S. consumers while making American products more expensive for foreign buyers.</p> <p>U.S. energy companies have benefited this year from higher prices and increased U.S. exports of oil and natural gas resulting from trade disruptions connected to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.</p> <p>This dynamic shifted in August, a period when demand eased and prices softened from highs hit earlier in the summer. U.S. natural gas exports rose but oil exports fell, while oil imports rose.</p> <p>The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and its Russia-led allies on Wednesday agreed to cut oil production by two million barrels a day, a move likely to keep upward pressure on energy prices. Oil prices rose after the announcement, with international benchmark Brent crude rising more than 2% to \$93.90 a barrel by midday Eastern time in the U.S.</p> <p>The U.S. average price of regular unleaded gasoline was \$3.83 a gallon on Wednesday, according to OPIS, an energy-data and analytics provider that is part of Dow Jones & Co., publisher of The Wall Street Journal. That is down from just over \$5 a gallon in early June but more than 60 cents a gallon above the price a year ago.</p>

OPEC's decision also could undermine efforts by the Group of Seven wealthy nations [to cap Russian oil prices](#), a key part of [the West's economic battle](#) with Moscow in response to the invasion.

The annual rate of inflation across the Group of 20 largest economies held at 9.2% from June to August, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said Tuesday.

The WTO said a trade slowdown could help cool price pressures by further improving supply chains and reducing transportation costs.

A measure of supply-chain pressures compiled by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York has fallen each month from April to August.

[Freight costs have declined](#) rapidly over recent months. "A key factor behind this is likely to have been easing goods demand," wrote Kiki Sondh, an economist at Oxford Economics, in a note to clients.

Factory prices charged by companies in most of Asia declined in September for the first time since the middle of 2020, according to purchasing managers indexes for the region, a sign that cooler trade growth may bring some relief on inflation, said Fred Neumann, chief Asia economist at HSBC in Hong Kong.

The Federal Reserve and other central banks are raising interests aggressively to combat high inflation by curbing hiring, spending and investment. These moves have contributed to weakening demand and [economic activity in the U.S.](#) and many other countries. Some economists and some policy makers worry rates may climb higher than needed and cause a recession.

"There is a danger you could overshoot," Ms. Okonjo-Iweala said.

Demand for goods soared in late 2020 as global economies bounced back from Covid-19 disruptions, fueling a surge in trade volumes in 2021.

Now, signs of a global trade slowdown abound in Asia and Europe.

South Korea's exports grew an annual 2.8% in September, the weakest performance since October 2020, the country's trade ministry said Tuesday.

In China, the world's second-largest economy, an export boom that propelled its economy through the pandemic [is petering out](#). China's demand for imports from its neighbors is also softening as its economy labors under a severe real-estate squeeze and the government's zero-tolerance approach to Covid-19.

Europe's exports to Russia have collapsed in responses to sanctions imposed on the Kremlin following its invasion of Ukraine, according to the European Union's statistics agency. But its exports to the U.S. have grown rapidly.

Wednesday's U.S. trade report provided "another confirmation of a softening global economic backdrop as demand weakens and businesses pull back on investment," Matthew Martin and Kathy Bostjancic, U.S. economists for Oxford Economics, a research firm, wrote in a note.

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HEADLINE	10/05 Iran protests erupt anew after teen's death
SOURCE	https://www.wsj.com/articles/iran-protests-erupt-anew-after-a-teenage-protesters-death-11664993771?mod=lead_feature_below_a_pos1
GIST	Iranian women and girls held fresh antigovernment protests on Wednesday, activists said, as demonstrations stretched into a third week , given new impetus as word spread on social media that a 16-year-old student had died after taking part in a women's rights rally.

The student's aunt, Atash Shahkarami, told BBC Persian that Nika Shahkarami called a friend to say she was being chased by security forces on Sept. 20. Her family found her body at a Tehran morgue 10 days later, Ms. Shahkarami said. The BBC said Ms. Shahkarami was arrested after being interviewed.

Iranian authorities have said Nika died after a fall from a roof, and that she hadn't been detained, according to the semiofficial Tasnim news agency.

The wave of [protests that have engulfed Iran](#) since last month erupted after the funeral of a 22-year-old woman, Mahsa Amini, on Sept. 17. She died while in the custody of [Iran's morality police](#) for allegedly violating the country's strict Islamic dress code.

At first, protesters aimed their anger at the morality police and called for an easing of restrictions on women's dress. The protests have since morphed into broader calls to overthrow the Islamic Republic, with some protesters clashing violently with security forces.

Authorities have used tear gas and opened fire on protesters, leaving scores dead. The Norway-based nonprofit Iran Human Rights said Tuesday that at least 154 had been killed nationwide. Hundreds more have been injured and hundreds have been arrested.

Nika's death appears to have emboldened other girls to join the protests alongside university students and women from older generations. Footage posted online on Wednesday showed dozens of schoolgirls in Tehran, during a visit by an official from the Basij paramilitary group to their school, removing their hijabs in protest and shouting at him to "Get lost, Basij."

Separate footage showed three women atop a bridge in Tehran unfolding a banner of an unveiled woman, saying "The next one is one of us," before taking off their own headscarves and waving them in the wind.

"Nika's death will definitely fuel the fire of anger," a female protester in Tehran said over the Telegram messaging app. "What they did to Nika is a true example of what the Islamic Republic does to us."

Family members of Nika told the BBC that when they were preparing to bury her, security forces arrived and took her body away. She was interred in a village 25 miles from her hometown, they said.

Authorities haven't commented publicly on the allegations that they took her body from the family.

Activists have circulated a video purportedly of Nika's mother, protesting in the street in defiance of orders from authorities to keep quiet, congratulating her daughter on her martyrdom.

Iranian authorities were intensifying their crackdown, activists said. On Sunday, members of the Basij clashed violently with protesters at the prestigious Sharif University of Technology in Tehran, according to protesters who were there.

In the evening, Basij members and plainclothes police officers on motorcycles surrounded the university, and began shooting with pellets and rubber bullets, and hitting protesters with batons, according to these protesters.

"You could hear nonstop gunfire," one protester said. "As we sped away in my friend's car, the windows were shattered by pellets."

At least six students from Sharif were taken to [Evin Prison](#), according to protesters who said they were in touch with relatives of the detained, a jail notorious for torture of political dissidents.

In recent days, agents of the intelligence ministry and the intelligence branch of the Revolutionary Guard have raided homes and arrested people suspected of participating in the demonstrations, said another protester who was in touch with the families of some of the arrested students.

	<p>While larger rallies in the capital have subsided, smaller protests spring up every day in different neighborhoods, according to protesters and residents. On Tuesday evening, shops in northern Tehran closed earlier than usual, but restaurants still catered to diners.</p> <p>Around 9 p.m. local time, chants of “death to the dictator” began reverberating from rooftops and open windows, audible in the streets and at restaurants.</p> <p>Information about the government crackdown has been patchy from the first days of the protests, with authorities choking internet communication across the country.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/05 Seattle gas prices continue to rise
SOURCE	https://mynorthwest.com/3664009/seattle-gas-prices-continue-to-rise-entering-october/
GIST	<p>Just when you thought it was safe to go back to the gas station, Seattle-area fuel prices have surged again. In fact, gas prices rose by 38 cents over the past week.</p> <p>Haunting issues remain Of course, the usual suspects are to blame: Refinery issues, tightening supply, and increasing demand. None of that knowledge will help you at the pump.</p> <p>Washington saw the fourth-largest spike in gas prices last week, hitting \$5.29 a gallon. We have the country’s fifth most expensive gas prices. California led the way, with Nevada, Oregon, and Alaska close behind.</p> <p>“At least six California refineries are undergoing maintenance, and there is a limited pipeline to supply the West Coast from locations east of the Rockies,” AAA spokesperson Andrew Gross told Patch, giving us another reason to be pessimistic.</p> <p>Scary price trends Despite the Biden administration’s efforts, the trend continues upward, and the war in Ukraine isn’t helping matters. Watch out for OPEC as well.</p> <p>In Washington, gas prices are highest in San Juan (\$5.99) and Skamania (\$5.82) counties. In Eastern Washington, prices are averaging below \$5.</p> <p>If you’re looking for a reason to live in Auburn, we got one. The Walmart at 762 Outlet Collection Way has gas for \$4 a gallon.</p> <p>Maybe it’s time to reconsider remote work.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/05 VP in car accident, mechanical failure?
SOURCE	https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2022/10/05/harris-motorcade-accident-secret-service/
GIST	<p>A motorcade taking Vice President Harris to work was in a one-car accident on a closed roadway in D.C. on Monday morning, an incident that concerned both the Secret Service director and the vice president and revived worries about the agency’s history of concealing its mistakes, according to two people familiar with the incident.</p> <p>The Secret Service agent driving Harris in an SUV struck the curb of a downtown tunnel hard enough that the vehicle’s tire needed to be replaced, bringing the motorcade to a standstill near Foggy Bottom at about 10:20 a.m., said the people, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to share internal discussions.</p> <p>Harris had to be transferred to another vehicle in the motorcade so agents could safely spirit her to the White House. The routine nature of the travel and the high level of training required for agents who</p>

drive the president and vice president led many in the Secret Service, as well as Harris, to question how such an accident could happen.

The Secret Service also failed to note key details of the incident in an electronic message formally alerting senior leadership to the motorcade's delay. The agency's protective intelligence division reported that "a mechanical failure" in the lead car had forced agents to transfer Harris to another vehicle during a scheduled movement to the White House, according to details of the alert shared with The Washington Post.

By Monday afternoon, Secret Service Director Kim Cheatle received information from other agents that the alert did not accurately convey what happened, one of the people said. In fact, many other Secret Service agents on Harris's detail and at the White House, as well as Harris, knew her driver had actually hit the side pavement of a tunnel.

A spokeswoman for the vice president said Harris is grateful for all the Secret Service does to keep her safe.

"The Vice President sustained no injuries and appreciates the quick response by her USSS detail to get her to the White House safely," Kirsten Allen said in an emailed statement.

Secret Service spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said the driver overcorrected when steering, leading to the accident. He said Harris was unharmed and delivered safely to the White House.

"During a protective movement Monday, a vehicle in a motorcade had a minor overcorrection and struck a curb," he said. "The protectee was transferred to a secondary vehicle, and the motorcade continued to its destination. There were no injuries to anyone."

He said agents did not initially share full details of what caused the problem in the vice president's motorcade in the formal written alert, but later briefed their superiors in person.

"Initial radio traffic indicated this was a mechanical failure, and that was communicated to agency leadership by personnel supporting the motorcade movement," he said. "After the protective movement was completed, leadership was verbally updated with additional pertinent facts that the vehicle struck a curb."

Harris was not in danger because she was quickly moved to another vehicle and medical staff examined her at the White House to ensure she had no injuries, Guglielmi said.

On Monday evening, video footage of Harris's motorcade blocking the tunnel — and agents scrambling out of follow-up cars to reach Harris — surfaced on TikTok. The video appeared to be taken by phone from someone in a building overlooking Virginia Avenue.

The alert that initially chalked the delay up to a "mechanical failure" was sent as part of standard protocol for sharing information on security developments or concerns related to the White House or any of the officials or family members the Secret Service protects. These alerts are official documents the agency's protective intelligence division sends to the phones of top officials, and have been used to warn them in the past, for example, when a person tries to jump the White House fence, or when agents make a change to security plans due to a new concern or a threat.

Cheatle, who is the second woman to lead the Secret Service, has been in the job for a month after [President Biden named her the new director in late August](#). She has confided to allies that she was disturbed by the inaccuracy of the alert related to the Harris accident, according to one Secret Service official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to share internal discussions, and was relieved to get the fuller account later that day. A spokesman declined to comment on what information Cheatle received or her reaction.

	<p>The Secret Service has had a long, troubled history of covering up its own mistakes and misconduct, with the most senior leaders and managers often relying on the shroud of secrecy covering presidential security to cover up agency foibles and failures.</p> <p>The Secret Service misled the public and the first family about a shooting at the White House in 2011, claiming it was a group of gang members shooting at each other when they had information the shooter was trying to kill President Barack Obama. In 2014, the Service gave incorrect information about a mentally troubled veteran who was able to jump the White House fence, reporting that he was not armed when he was, and that he was stopped at the door when he actually got deep inside the White House mansion. After a night of drinking at an agent's retirement party in 2015, the most senior agent in charge of White House security drove with another senior supervisor onto the White House grounds and through an area closed due to an ongoing investigation of a possible bomb. Despite dozens of Secret Service personnel being aware of the incident, no one reported it to the director at the time. Director Joseph Clancy learned of the security breach from a former agent and friend.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/06 Monkeypox intradermal vaccine concern
SOURCE	https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2022/10/06/monkeypox-outbreak-scars-vaccine-side-effects/
GIST	<p>With many in the gay community clamoring for the monkeypox vaccine this summer, hoping for protection from a virus that causes painful and gruesome lesions, the United States faced a challenge.</p> <p>“The monkeypox virus has continued to spread at a rate that has made it clear our current vaccine supply will not meet the current demand,” Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Robert M. Califf said at the time.</p> <p>So in August, the FDA announced that it was issuing an emergency use authorization for the Jynneos monkeypox vaccine to be administered by intradermal injection — delivering the vaccine into the immune cells between the layers of the skin, often in the forearm, rather than a deeper injection into fat or muscle tissue in the shoulder. The method, while used for other vaccinations, had not previously been authorized by the United States for the monkeypox vaccine. It uses a smaller amount of vaccine, meaning one dose could be split among five people.</p> <p>Two months later, the outbreak appears to be waning and monkeypox vaccine appointments are more plentiful in many parts of the country than earlier in the summer, when obtaining a shot was like “winning the sweepstakes or getting concert tickets,” one recipient said.</p> <p>However, the makeshift vaccination plan has not been without its downsides. The intradermal injection can leave a painful, itchy red mark for weeks, potentially worsening the stigma of an outbreak mostly affecting gay men, and it can cause long-term discoloration or scarring. The FDA’s emergency authorization of the intradermal method largely relied on a single study done in 2015, which showed that intradermal and traditional “subcutaneous” injections of the vaccine produced similar immune responses. All of which has left some people with lingering concerns about stigma, discomfort and efficacy.</p> <p>Cooper Newnam, a 25-year-old Phoenix resident, said he skipped getting the second shot in the two-dose regimen because of concerns about the intradermal injection method. Other gay men he knew who had received their second doses in their forearms were left with a red welt, a visual reminder of the outbreak that changed how they felt at work and “made them feel sort of marginalized,” he said.</p> <p>“I felt like no one told us, ‘You’re about to have a clear sign of monkeypox on your body, even though you’re being vaccinated.’ Still, to some degree it is a clear sign because the straight communities are not going to have that giant bump on their arm,” Newnam said. “It was further marginalizing.”</p> <p>Max, a 36-year-old who lives in New York City, said he was worried not about the safety of the intradermal shot, but about whether it would be as effective as his first dose, which was administered via the traditional method.</p>

“I was concerned that maybe what I was receiving — one-fifth of the dose in this different way — was perhaps not as effective as the recommended dose administered to me in my arm the first time,” said Max, who spoke on the condition that his full name not be used because of concerns about professional repercussions and the stigma associated with monkeypox.

The pain was “not horrible,” but enough to wake him in the middle of the night, he said. He found himself wondering: What “did I do to myself to need to get this?”

The intradermal injection method is “a more difficult technique to learn,” said William Schaffner, an infectious-disease specialist at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. “You have to use a smaller needle, and you have to be very deft in learning how to do that, because you don’t want to go through the skin.” Too deep, and the smaller dose won’t be enough to provide a sufficient immune response, he said.

Top federal health officials, including Rochelle Walensky, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, wrote in an [opinion piece](#) published in the New England Journal of Medicine last week that “despite limited clinical evidence,” data suggested that the intradermal shots would produce an equal immune response “for preventing monkeypox infection and illness.”

The CDC and the FDA are “committed to performing the studies needed to assure that our expectations are borne out,” the article said. In the meantime, people at high risk of infection are recommended to receive both doses, and vaccine manufacturers are urged to test the method to “expand our understanding” of it.

But even the manufacturer of the vaccine used in the United States has expressed concern to the Biden administration about the intradermal method. “We do have some reservations ... due to the very limited safety data available,” Bavarian Nordic chief executive Paul Chaplin wrote in a letter sent to top administration officials and [obtained by The Washington Post](#) in August. Chaplin said “it would have been prudent” to conduct further studies before switching up the vaccination strategy.

In its [response](#), the FDA told Chaplin that the continued spread of the virus “necessitated that FDA vigorously explore all available vaccine options to provide protection for the population at risk.”

As the FDA began looking into the intradermal method, it found that it would be an “effective strategy” with “an acceptable safety profile,” a top U.S. health official said in an interview, speaking on the condition of anonymity to speak candidly about the administration’s response to the outbreak.

“It was clear that there were a couple of trade-offs,” the official said, noting the discomfort and duration of the markings at the site of the injection. Despite those drawbacks, “it was really an appealing option for us to actually be able to make vaccine available to all” who were at risk of infection, the official said, noting that the quality of the 2015 study was “really good.”

Schaffner agreed that the study was “very well done” and that there was a long history of other vaccines being administered intradermally. Still, when the FDA announced its emergency authorization, “it was a bit of a surprise to all of us,” he said, though the data of its efficacy was “very reassuring.”

Despite concerns, Schaffner said it was “absolutely” better for the vaccines to be administered intradermally than not administered at all.

Joe Wood, 34, said he still needs to get his second dose but didn’t take issue with the intradermal injection. “I trust what the CDC and FDA are saying,” he said. “Protection would be my top priority, so I’m not at all worried about getting it that way, personally.”

The CDC advises people younger than 18 and those with a history of keloid scarring — thick, raised scars — to receive the vaccine via the “standard regimen.” Concerns about discoloration or scarring are “real — we can’t trivialize it,” Schaffner said.

He wondered whether there could be processes to remove the remnants of the welts, similar to how tattoos are removed, “because it would make a lot of people happier if they don’t walk around with this mark of Cain on their forearm. I regard that as a real issue.”

Joey Uy, 25, received a second dose intradermally on Monday in New York City. “This one is definitely different from the first,” which was administered in the shoulder, said Uy, who has been wearing long sleeves to avoid scratching the injection site and bathing frequently to keep it clean.

“It’s similar to getting a mosquito bite, but three or four times worse,” Uy said. “I try not to think about it.”

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HEADLINE	10/05 WA bonuses to homeless service workers
SOURCE	https://crosscut.com/news/2022/10/wa-offers-4k-bonuses-combat-homeless-service-worker-crisis
GIST	<p>Ashleigh Desvigne’s work has never been easy. She’s the lead family advocate with YWCA’s Project Reunite, a program that provides supportive housing and classes for parents experiencing homelessness and drug addiction in order to get them stabilized and reunited with their children.</p> <p>But the pandemic has made things so much harder. At its height, she and her colleagues couldn’t meet in person with their clients. It was more challenging to spot when people were regressing in the program. The isolation has escalated people’s mental health struggles. Desvigne said she has seen vastly more clients relapsing into drug use than she did in the past.</p> <p>“In the 10 years I’ve been doing this, this has been the most challenging it’s ever been,” she said. “It got to a point that I can honestly tell you I wanted to walk away.”</p> <p>Many of her colleagues did walk away, citing the compounding stresses of increasingly challenging, often traumatic work done for low pay. After five and a half years with YWCA Seattle King Snohomish and 10 years in the homeless-services industry, Desvigne earns \$25.50 an hour, or about \$53,000 annually before taxes.</p> <p>All those factors make it difficult to attract and retain new hires to replace her departed colleagues.</p> <p>Desvigne said she’s supposed to have a counterpart doing the same job. The last four people they’ve hired for the position have lasted only six or seven months.</p> <p>“I’ve told all of them, ‘I totally get it; I totally understand,’” she said.</p> <p>The homeless-services sector struggled with low pay, burnout and turnover long before the pandemic. But industry leaders say the pandemic cranked the challenges of the work to 11, leading to a crisis-level shortage of frontline workers.</p> <p>In recognition of that crisis and the need to stanch the outflow of social-service providers, the Washington state Legislature earmarked \$55 million in federal COVID-19 grants in the 2022 budget to pay for two rounds of \$2,000 stipends for people doing direct homeless assistance in the state. The money also pays for a study that will look at long-term solutions to stabilize the industry. Applications for the stipend program opened Sept. 29.</p> <p>“The stipends were never seen as a systemic solution,” said Michele Thomas, advocacy director at the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance. “It was meant to be a generous Band-Aid to stop the bleeding. And to say to the frontline workers that the state sees them and that the state is committed to improving working conditions for them.”</p> <p>The stipends are available to anybody employed full- or part-time with an organization that works on-site with people experiencing homelessness or residents of a permanent supportive housing program. That</p>

includes emergency shelter and transitional housing staff, street outreach workers, caseworkers, peer advisors, reception and admin support staff and maintenance and custodial staff.

Applicants must earn 80% or less of their area median income. For an individual in the Seattle metro area that's \$66,750 or less a year. They must attest that the money will help with an economic hardship such as rent or mortgage payments, utilities loans, or transportation costs.

Proving economic hardship will be easy for many in the industry. Desvigne said she and her co-workers often talk about how many of them rely on the same safety-net programs as their clients, such as food stamps and Section 8 rental-assistance vouchers. For Desvigne, the state stipends will help her play catch-up on bills she owes and cover upcoming moving expenses, since her landlord is about to raise the rent beyond what she can afford.

"When you're living paycheck-to-paycheck, you get good at juggling. But this will get some weight off me as far as being able to get caught up again," she said.

The program will distribute the stipends through June 2, 2023. As an incentive for people to stay in their jobs, applicants who qualify for a first-round stipend are eligible for another payment of up to \$2,000 six months later if they remain employed at the same organization. Because the program ends in June 2023, applicants must apply for their first stipend by Dec. 9 to qualify in time for the second stipend.

The state's Department of Commerce is using \$500,000 of the earmarked federal dollars to pay for a study of current working conditions in the homeless-services industry and ways to improve retention.

State Rep. Nicole Macri, D-Seattle, led the push for the stipends in the legislature. Macri is also deputy director of the Downtown Emergency Services Center (DESC) in Seattle. She said her goal with the study is to figure out what the state's role should be in funding homeless-services operations. Traditionally, she explained, the state Housing Trust Fund has been used to pay for low-income housing construction.

Part of the challenge of raising wages in the industry stems from the complex system of contracts that service providers rely upon to pay for operations, salaries and most other costs. One nonprofit might have several contracts from the county along with a federal contract. If funding from only one of those four contracts increases, said Macri, it's difficult for a provider to raise wages across the board.

King County Regional Homelessness Authority CEO Marc Dones said that to really address wages, local, state and federal contracts all need to increase. The Authority has lobbied for more money from Seattle and King County (which set the Authority's budget), in part to increase pay and better retain workers. Without it, Dones said, the region won't be able to address homelessness.

"In the homelessness sector and broadly in the human-services sector, [the work is] just people helping people," they said. "And in absence of the people, there's not work that can happen."

The Seattle City Council voted unanimously in 2019 to [peg social-service contracts to the real rate of inflation](#) in recognition of lagging wages and rising costs. Mayor Bruce Harrell's 2022 budget proposal [would cap service-provider wage increases at 4%](#). At less than half the current 8.25% inflation rate, that increase would amount to a pay cut.

Homeless-service work has always been poorly paid, said Andrea Carnes, Plymouth Housing's chief operating officer. But as the cost of living has increased, the gap between wages and expenses has become insurmountable for some.

When Carnes started at Plymouth 10 years ago, most employees lived in Seattle, she said. Now many have been pushed into south King County and Pierce County by [steep housing costs](#). Commuting two hours into the city for \$20 an hour, "you can't make that work anymore," she said.

The increased challenges of the work have also created a downward spiral of working conditions.

Permanent supportive housing like Plymouth's requires 24/7 staffing. As people quit, it makes work much harder for those who remain, which can lead to more turnover.

"It means the person who's sitting at the front desk is being asked 'Can you stay another four hours, then another four hours on top of that?'" said Carnes. "All of a sudden you've worked 16 hours. Do that a couple times a week and you don't want to work there anymore."

Plymouth is losing people to places like Taco Time NW and Starbucks, which offer \$17 to \$23 an hour starting pay for less stressful work. Carnes said the organization's 15% employee vacancy rate has held steady since even before the pandemic.

Macri said that DESC, where starting annual wages are around \$40,000, currently has 150 to 200 open positions among its 900-person staff. She said many of those positions were added during the pandemic to reduce the workload of existing employees that they've been unable to fill.

"We need a paradigm shift of really understanding [that] homeless services is a part of the first-responder system," said Carnes. "When I look at the way we treat firefighters and healthcare workers and other emergency responders, there's investment in living wages and education and ongoing training. It's seen as necessary. Nobody ever thinks about how many grants you need to get to have the right number of firefighters."

The City of Seattle recently began offering [\\$30,000 bonuses for experienced police officers](#) and \$7,500 bonuses for new recruits to improve hiring and retention.

Raising wages is the primary goal for homeless-services advocates and providers. And that alone will be a serious challenge.

"This isn't 'Oh, we need to raise wages to meet inflation, 7% to 10%,'" said Macri. "We need to raise wages 40% for people to be able to live close to where they work. That is not typically a challenge that can get solved in one legislative session or one city or county budget cycle."

Beyond wages, there's a push for more and better benefits and workforce development opportunities. Dones, of the county homelessness authority, said they've heard stories of service workers leaving for the private sector just to get paid family leave.

"Providers deserve, and frankly my own staff, deserve to have [contract] rates that allow us to pay for the kinds of benefit structures that folks in the private sector enjoy: leave for new parents, discounts at gyms, free ORCA cards," they said.

Desvigne wants to see more support for mental health and paid time off.

"There should be a set-aside time without repercussions that you can take a mental health day," she said. "This kind of work makes you feel like you shouldn't take time off. ... The stuff we hear is very traumatic. It's traumatic for our clients to experience. Then there's secondary trauma hearing these stories over and over and over again."

The sort of wages and benefits increase the homeless-services industry is calling for will likely take years to materialize, if it ever does. In the meantime, Desvigne said there are ways everyone can help.

People stopped [volunteering](#) at homeless-services programs like hers during the pandemic and many have not yet returned.

"That give-back spirit has died off," she said. "Sometimes it helps us survive. We need people willing to come file paperwork. Or even just tend the garden."

HEADLINE	10/05 Fall Covid surge begins in Europe
SOURCE	https://arstechnica.com/science/2022/10/winter-covid-wave-the-outlook-for-the-us-is-not-looking-good/
GIST	<p>The dreaded winter COVID wave may already be upon us—and based on early signs, we may be in for a rough time.</p> <p>As people head indoors amid cooling weather, several European countries are seeing upticks in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. Though the situation in the US remains quiet for now, trends in the US tend to echo those in Europe.</p> <p>So far, the rise in cases is driven by a familiar foe: the omicron subvariant BA.5, which has maintained a relatively long reign as the globally dominant variant. But a thick soup of omicron subvariants is simmering on the back burner, loaded with sublineages—notably from BA.2. and BA.5—converging on alarming sets of mutations. Some sublineages—such as BQ.1.1, an offshoot from BA.5, and XBB, derived from BA.2 strains—are the most immune evasive subvariants seen to date.</p> <p>For now, the sublineages only account for a sliver of total cases we know about, with BA.5 still taking the lion's share. But our ability to detect and surveil new subvariants is only a fraction of what it once was.</p> <p>Low surveillance</p> <p>"Surveillance has changed drastically in the last several months," Maria Van Kerkhove, COVID-19 technical lead for the World Health Organization, said in a press briefing Wednesday. "The number of sequences that the world and our expert networks are evaluating has dropped by more than 90 percent since the start of the year. That limits our ability to really track each of these [omicron subvariants]."</p> <p>Still, even what we can see from that limited surveillance is concerning. Van Kerkhove notes that there are more than 300 sublineages that experts are tracking, and several are particularly worrying. "It sounds a little bit like an alphabet soup with all of these subvariants that we're tracking," she said. "But the bottom line is that this virus continues to evolve. It's circulating at an incredibly intense level around the world right now. ... We will continue to see waves of infection. This is for sure."</p> <p>Many experts expect the next wave to be coming in the weeks ahead—and the best way to protect from a surge in hospitalizations and death is for people to get boosted. But yet another concerning reality is that booster uptake in the US has been and is abysmal. While 68 percent of the US population has received a full primary series of COVID-19 vaccines, less than half have gotten a single booster. Only 37 percent of people over the age of 50 have gotten a second booster. And, to date, only 7.6 million Americans have gotten their fall booster—a dose of the new, bivalent booster that, in part, targets BA.5.</p> <p>Weak boosting</p> <p>A modeling study released Wednesday by researchers at Yale University and the Commonwealth Fund highlights how concerning this poor booster rate is. The researchers modeled a winter wave—assuming no new subvariant, like XBB, sweeps the globe like omicron did last winter. They compared the outlook with current vaccination and booster rates to what could be averted if those rates mirrored the coverage of influenza vaccine in the 2020-2021 flu season—which was modest but solid 59 percent for those aged 6 months to 17 years, and 50 percent among adults.</p> <p>In a conservative estimate, "if vaccination continued at its current pace through the end of March 2023, a potential winter surge in COVID-19 infections could result in a peak of around 16,000 hospitalizations and 1,200 deaths per day by March 2023," the researchers found. But, if the fall COVID-10 booster campaign matched the modest vaccination levels of the 2020-2021 flu season, it would prevent more than 75,000 deaths and more than 745,000 hospitalizations by March 2023.</p> <p>And these are conservative estimates in that they assume the new boosters aren't better than the previous versions, there is no holiday-related surge, and loosened quarantine and isolation guidance don't exacerbate spread. Thus, the modeled wave is likely an underestimate of what could happen.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/05 Experts worry US flu season will be severe
SOURCE	https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2022-10-05/why-experts-worry-the-flu-season-will-be-severe-in-the-u-s
GIST	<p>The U.S. was largely spared from the influenza for the past two years. But that likely won't be the case this time around.</p> <p>Low levels of immunity as well as the relaxation of COVID-19 mitigation measures could fuel a severe flu season as colder weather pushes more people indoors, according to experts.</p> <p>"We know over the last several years some people did not elect to get their flu shot," Rochelle Walensky, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, told ABC News on Sept. 22. "We've had decreased rates of flu over the last several years and probably due to many of the mitigation strategies that we have in place for COVID. When that happens, we have decreased levels of population immunity, which raises the concern that the next year, you might have a higher, larger flu challenge."</p> <p>What exactly is leading experts to believe the U.S. flu season could be significant? The biggest hint comes from the southern hemisphere, which already went through its winter flu season. Australia, in particular, saw its worst season in five years.</p> <p>In 2021, there were nearly 600 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza in Australia and no deaths. During this year's flu season, the country has reported more than 224,000 cases and 305 deaths.</p> <p>Children were especially hit hard during Australia's flu season. Kids aged 5–9 years reported the highest rates of flu along with children under 5 and adolescents and teenagers under the age of 20.</p> <p>In the U.S., pediatric flu deaths have exceeded 100 most years since 2010. Last season, however, topped out at 39 deaths. The season before that saw just one death. Without much exposure to the flu over the past two seasons, experts are concerned children could also bear the brunt of the season in the U.S.</p> <p>"This poses a risk especially to young children who may not have had much, if any, previous exposure to influenza viruses prior to this season because of the pandemic precautions that were put in place – the masking, the social distancing," said Andrew Pekosz, a virologist with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.</p> <p>Another COVID-19 surge is also expected in the fall and winter, but Americans have largely dropped masking and social distancing. It's unclear if they will be willing to go back to the measures, despite agreement among experts that it would help control both the flu and the coronavirus.</p> <p>"If people are willing to restart some degree of social distancing and mask wearing if we see an uptick in COVID cases, then I would hope this would help mitigate any increase in spread of influenza as well," Jason McKnight, a clinical associate professor at the Texas A&M College of Medicine, said in a statement. "Many of the things we have been preaching for almost three years (handwashing, social distancing when ill, mask wearing) will help prevent the spread of influenza just as it does for COVID."</p> <p>Experts are urging individuals to prepare for the flu season by getting the vaccine.</p> <p>"The simple solution here is to get your influenza vaccine to help limit cases and reduce severe disease," Pekosz said. "This is particularly true with high-risk groups."</p> <p>High-risk groups include people 65 years of age or older, pregnant people and young children, among others.</p> <p>The CDC recommends that everyone 6 months of age and older get an annual influenza vaccine. Shots should ideally be administered in September and October, according to the agency.</p>

The agency has urged people aged 65 and older to get one of the three higher-dose flu vaccines available – [Fluzone High-Dose Quadrivalent vaccine](#), [Flublok Quadrivalent recombinant flu vaccine](#) or [Fluad Quadrivalent adjuvanted flu vaccine](#) – given that they are at a higher risk of severe illness, hospitalization and death from the flu. But if those shots aren’t available, older Americans should get whatever vaccine is.

“We know flu vaccination remains the best way to protect yourself and your family from flu,” Walensky said at an event this week.

But flu vaccination rates among adults fell last year to 45%, according to CDC [data](#), and this season’s rates aren’t shaping up to be much better. According to a [survey](#) from the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, only about 49% of adult Americans plan to get the flu shot for this season.

Countries in the northern hemisphere should heed the flu data from the southern hemisphere and prepare for the season, according to Maria Van Kerkhove of the World Health Organization.

“Countries need to be agile to be able to surge up and surge down necessary requirements for testing, for clinical care to make sure that the workforce is protected and respected to provide the best optimal clinical care that they can,” Van Kerkhove said at a recent press conference.

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HEADLINE	10/05 Low water halts Mississippi River traffic
SOURCE	https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2022/oct/5/barges-grounded-by-low-water-halt-mississippi-river/
GIST	<p>The unusually low water level in the lower Mississippi River is causing barges to get stuck in mud and sand, resulting in delays for shippers, recreational boaters and even passengers on a cruise line.</p> <p>Lack of rainfall in recent weeks has left the Mississippi River approaching record low levels in some areas from Missouri south through Louisiana. The U.S. Coast Guard said at least eight “groundings” of barges have been reported in the past week, despite low-water restrictions on barge loads.</p> <p>One of the groundings happened Friday between Louisiana and Mississippi, near Lake Providence, Mississippi. It halted river traffic in both directions for days “to clear the grounded barges from the channel and to deepen the channel via dredging to prevent future groundings,” U.S. Army Corps of Engineers spokesperson Sabrina Dalton said in an email.</p> <p>As a result, dozens of tows and barges were lined up in both directions, waiting to get by. The stoppage also brought a halt to a Viking cruise ship with about 350 passengers on board, said R. Thomas Berner, a Penn State professor emeritus of journalism and American studies, and one of the passengers.</p> <p>The Viking ship was originally supposed to launch from New Orleans on Saturday, but the water there was so low that the launch was moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Berner said.</p> <p>By Tuesday, the ship was halted near Vicksburg, Mississippi, due to the backup caused by the grounding. It wasn’t near a dock so passengers couldn’t leave. The ship’s crew kept people entertained as much as possible with music, games and other activities.</p> <p>“Some of us are taking naps,” Berner joked.</p> <p>The stuck barges were freed midday Tuesday. Berner said the cruise ship restarted Tuesday night. It’s due to arrive in St. Paul, Minnesota, on Oct. 15 .</p> <p>Nearly all of the Mississippi River basin, from Minnesota through Louisiana, has seen below-normal rainfall since late August. The basin from St. Louis south has been largely dry for three months, according to the National Weather Service.</p>

	<p>The timing is bad because barges are busy carrying recently harvested corn and soybeans up and down the river.</p> <p>Lucy Fletcher of the agricultural retailer AGRIServices of Brunswick, who serves on the board for the St. Louis-based trade association Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals, said navigation woes on the Mississippi, Missouri and other major rivers have some shippers looking at other means of transportation.</p> <p>“Can they divert to rail?” Fletcher asked. “Well, there’s not an abundance of rail availability. And usually people are booking their transportation for fall early in the season. So if they haven’t booked that freight already, you’re going to see people in dire straits.”</p> <p>Fletcher said that with the supply chain still snagged following the COVID-19 pandemic, trucks also are largely booked and unavailable.</p> <p>To keep river traffic flowing, the Corps of Engineers has been dredging the Mississippi at several spots and placed limits on the number of barges each tow can move.</p> <p>Last week, Corps officials in Louisiana said the low river level was allowing salt water from the Gulf of Mexico to creep up into the Mississippi. They planned an underground levee aimed at keeping salt water out of water treatment plants. The shallow water also forced the mid-September closure of a ferry that carries vehicles across the Mississippi River between Kentucky and Missouri.</p> <p>The forecast for much of the Mississippi River basin calls for continued dry weather in the near future. Fletcher is hopeful the winter will bring some relief.</p> <p>“We need a good year for lots of snow melt,” she said. “The whole system’s just going to need some water.”</p>
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HEADLINE	10/06 Day 225 of the Russia invasion
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/06/russia-ukraine-war-latest-what-we-know-on-day-225-of-the-invasion
GIST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two people have been killed after Ukraine’s southeastern city of Zaporizhzhia was allegedly hit by Russian missiles in the early hours of Thursday morning. Regional governor, Oleksandr Starukh, said one woman was confirmed to have died in the attack while another person died in an ambulance. “At least five people are under the rubble of buildings,” he wrote on the Telegram messaging app on Thursday morning. Starukh earlier alleged Russia “fired 7 rockets at high-rise buildings” while rescuers continue to pull people out from under the rubble. • The Russian president, Vladimir Putin, has appeared to admit severe losses in Ukraine, conceding the severity of the Kremlin’s recent military reversals and insisting Russia would “stabilise” the situation in four Ukrainian regions – Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia – it illegally claimed as its own territory last week. “We are working on the assumption that the situation in the new territories will stabilise,” Putin told Russian teachers during a televised video call on Wednesday. • The UN nuclear agency chief is en route to Kyiv to discuss creating a security zone around Ukraine’s Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, after Putin ordered his government to take it over. “On our way to Kyiv for important meetings,” International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) head Rafael Grossi wrote on Twitter, saying the need for a protection zone around the site was “more urgent than ever”. Grossi is also expected to visit Moscow in the coming days to discuss the situation at the plant. The IAEA said it had learned of plans to restart one reactor at the plant, where all six reactors have been shut down for weeks. • Ukraine’s forces are pushing their advance in the east and south, forcing Russian troops to retreat under pressure on both fronts. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Ukraine’s military had made major, rapid advances against Russian forces in the past week, taking back dozens of towns in regions in the south and east that Russia has declared annexed. Military experts say

	<p>Russia is at its weakest point, partly because of its decision not to mobilise earlier and partly because of massive losses of troops and equipment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ukraine has extended its area of control in the Kherson region by six to 12 miles, according to its military's southern command. Zelenskiy confirmed the recapture of the villages of Novovoskresenske, Novohryhorivka and Petropavlivka, saying the settlements were "liberated from the sham referendum and stabilised," in an address on Wednesday. Kherson region's Moscow-appointed governor, Kirill Stremousov, said the withdrawal was a tactical "regrouping" to "deliver a retaliatory blow". The extent of Russia's retreat remains unclear. • Moscow's forces have left behind smashed towns once under occupation and, in places, mass burial sites and evidence of torture chambers. In Lyman, which was retaken by Ukrainian forces on Sunday, more than 50 graves have been found, some marked with names, others with numbers, the Kyiv-based outlet Hromadske reported on Wednesday. • The UN has warned Russia's claimed annexation of Ukraine territory will only exacerbate human rights violations. Christian Salazar Volkmann, said UN experts had documented "a range of violations of the rights to life, liberty and security" and warned the situation would only worsen as Russia pushes forward with the annexation of some Ukrainian regions. • Attempts to play down retreats in Ukraine are no longer washing inside Russia with the latest military failures spilling on to local television screens. "Why do we advance metre by metre when they advance village by village?" Olga Skabeyeva, the country's top state-TV host, asked a Russia-appointed official in Luhansk in a recent broadcast. Pro-war military bloggers and journalists are also criticising the Kremlin and painting a bleak picture of deteriorating Russian morale. Roman Saponkov, a prominent war correspondent, described his despair over the pullback in Kherson on his Telegram channel: "I really don't know what to say to you. The retreat ... is catastrophic." • Poland says it has asked to have US nuclear weapons based on its territory, amid growing fears that Putin could resort to using nuclear arms in Ukraine. The request from the Polish president, Andrzej Duda, is widely seen as symbolic and appears to be the latest example of nuclear signalling to deter Putin. The White House, however, said it had not received such a request. • The car bombing that killed Darya Dugina, the daughter of prominent Russian political figure Alexander Dugin, was allegedly authorised by elements within the Ukrainian government, according to US intelligence sources who spoke with the New York Times and CNN. The United States took no part in the attack, either by providing intelligence or other assistance, the officials said. • A SpaceX rocket carrying Russian cosmonaut, Anna Kikina, the only female cosmonaut in service, soared into orbit from Florida on Wednesday. The International Space Station crew comprising Kikina, two Americans and a Japanese astronaut flew together in a demonstration of US-Russian teamwork in space despite Ukraine war tensions.
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HEADLINE	10/05 Putin admits severe losses in Ukraine?
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/05/putin-appears-to-admit-severe-russian-losses-in-ukraine
GIST	<p>The Russian president, Vladimir Putin, has appeared to concede the severity of the Kremlin's recent military reversals in Ukraine, insisting Russia would "stabilise" the situation in four Ukrainian regions it illegally claimed as its own territory last week.</p> <p>Russia has suffered significant losses in two of the four regions since Friday, when Putin signed treaties to incorporate them into Russia by force, with Russian officials saying their forces were "regrouping".</p> <p>"We are working on the assumption that the situation in the new territories will stabilise," Putin told Russian teachers during a televised video call.</p> <p>With Ukraine pushing its advance in the east and south, Russian troops have been retreating under pressure on both fronts, confronted by fast moving and agile Ukrainian forces supplied with advanced western-supplied artillery systems.</p>

As Russian troops have retreated, they have left behind smashed towns once under occupation and, in places, mass burial sites and evidence of torture chambers.

In the town of Lyman, which was retaken by Ukrainian forces on Sunday, more than 50 graves have been found, some marked with names, others with numbers, the Kyiv-based outlet Hromadske reported on Wednesday.

Putin's comments comes amid increasingly gloomy commentary from Russian war correspondents and military bloggers over the severity of the situation that has seen a large-scale withdrawal from the Kharkiv region, the loss of the [strategic town of Lyman](#) on Friday and Ukrainian advances in the Kherson region.

The scale of the recent defeats was underlined by a report by the BBC's Russian service that said an elite Russian military intelligence unit may have lost up to three-quarters of its reconnaissance manpower in Ukraine.

On Wednesday, Ukraine's southern command said it had extended its area of control by six to 12 miles in the Kherson region and the president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, confirmed the recapture of a series of villages.

The territory recaptured is to the south of the city of Kryvyi Rih in the direction of Nova Kakhovka as well as west along the north bank of the Dnipro river towards Kherson.

"The Ukrainian army is making quite fast and powerful progress in the south of our country," said Zelenskiy in his nightly address on Tuesday. "Dozens of settlements have already been exempted from the Russian pseudo-referendum this week alone ... and this is far from a complete list." He named eight villages in the Kherson region.

Some Russian propagandists and officials blamed the losses on Nato.

"We are regrouping [our forces] along the front, which means that we can gather strength and strike back," Kirill Stremousov, the Moscow-appointed deputy head of Kherson region, told the RIA Novosti news agency. Stremousov said it was "impossible" for them to enter Kherson city.

A Russian war reporter for state TV, Roman Saponkov, wrote to his Telegram followers that Russia was losing in Kherson. "Friends, I know you're waiting for me to comment on the situation. But I really don't know what to say to you. The retreat from the north on the right bank is a disaster."

The losses came as Putin ordered on Wednesday his government to take control of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, Europe's largest, but was met with the head of Ukraine's state nuclear energy company saying he was taking charge and urging workers not to sign any documents with Russia.

Military experts say Russia is at its weakest point, partly because of its decision not to mobilise earlier and partly because of massive losses of troops and equipment.

About 15,000 of Russia's best-trained troops are struggling to fight off Ukrainians on the western bank of occupied Kherson, despite movements of Russian troops from the eastern front to the south, which has thinned Russian forces elsewhere.

According to Jack Watling, a senior analyst at the Royal United Services Institute, Russian troops around Kherson have retreated to their second line of defence to shorten their frontline.

"There's no evidence of surrender or collapse [of Russian forces] ... like we saw in Kharkiv region," said Watling, noting the political importance for Russia of holding on to Kherson city, the only regional centre it has managed to acquire since February.

But if Ukraine's forces manage to break through Russia's second line of defence, they will be able to cut the Russian supply lines with a wider range of cheaper artillery and trap them on the western bank of Kherson, he added.

"At the moment, the bridges are being hit by Himars [rockets], which are scarce and very expensive ... [if they advance further] they can afford to open up against more incidental targets," said Watling of the bridges supplying Russian forces on Kherson's west bank.

Phillips O'Brien, a professor of strategic studies at St Andrews University, added that Ukraine's recent progress had been a product of a process, not a turning point.

"For months now, Russia has been getting weaker, it has been bleeding its army on the field, it's been losing a huge amount of equipment. On the other hand, the Ukrainians have been getting stronger; they have better-trained forces and better military equipment."

He added: "This hasn't happened overnight, this has been the way the war has been trending but now we can say it reached the tipping point in September."

In the short term there is nothing Russia can do because they waited too long to mobilise, O'Brien said.

Russia, meanwhile, has continued to attack behind Ukraine's frontlines, a mixture of military and civilian targets. On Wednesday morning, it launched a significant drone attack on Bila Tserkva in Kyiv region and fired rockets into Zaporizhzhia and Dnipro region.

But O'Brien doubted Russia had enough quality missiles to alter the situation behind the frontlines to affect the battlefield.

"It's more of a question of, can they just hold on and hope that they can get a trained and re-equipped force back in the spring, but even then there's a question about whether they can do that," said O'Brien. He said Russia would need to produce more equipment and properly train troops but its system of mobilisation appeared "chaotic".

Konrad Muzyka, an independent military analyst, said he had initially thought the war may last for years, but after the Kharkiv region, it could be much less.

"It does not look good for [Russia] ... They are not able to defend properly, let alone conduct any offensives," said Muzyka. "This Russian leadership thinks with [new] reservists they will be able to stop Ukrainian advances, but I'm not sure. The truth is, we don't know how big an impact it will [have] on the frontline."

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HEADLINE	10/05 Poland asks to host US nuclear weapons
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/05/poland-us-nuclear-wars-russia-putin-ukraine
GIST	<p>Poland says it has asked to have US nuclear weapons based on its territory, amid growing fears that Vladimir Putin could resort to using nuclear arms in Ukraine to stave off a rout of his invading army.</p> <p>The request from the Polish president, Andrzej Duda, is widely seen as symbolic, as moving nuclear warheads closer to Russia would make them more vulnerable and less militarily useful, according to experts. Furthermore, the White House has said it had not received such a request.</p> <p>"We're not aware of this issue being raised and would refer you to the government of Poland," a US official said.</p> <p>Duda's announcement appears to be the latest example of nuclear signalling as the US and its allies seek to deter Putin from the first nuclear use in battle since 1945, while preparing potential responses if</p>

deterrence fails that would have maximum punitive impact while containing the risk of escalation to all-out nuclear war.

Previous war games conducted by US administrations have shown that is a fine, and fuzzy, line to tread, given the uncertainty over Putin's state of mind, and his record of giant miscalculations over Ukraine.

Duda's remarks on basing nuclear weapons followed changes in the constitution of neighbouring Belarus that would allow Russian nuclear weapons to be based on its territory.

The Polish president said there was "a potential opportunity" for Poland to take part in "nuclear sharing", by which pilots from the host country are trained to fly missions carrying US nuclear bombs, which are stored on their territory.

"We have spoken with American leaders about whether the United States is considering such a possibility. The issue is open," Duda told Gazeta Polska.

Moving US nuclear weapons into Poland could be a violation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Nato-Russia Founding Act in 1997, after the end of the Cold War in which Nato stated it had no plan to deploy nuclear weapons on the territory of new members. Russia has meanwhile violated its own commitments under the act.

Nuclear experts also added it made little strategic sense for Poland or Nato.

The Federation of American Scientists (FAS) estimates the US has 100 nuclear weapons left over in Europe in the aftermath of the cold war, spread among the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Italy and Turkey.

They are all B61 bombs which had been seen as militarily obsolete with no mission in the event of a war with Russia. Arms control experts have long called for them to be removed from Europe.

However, they have been modernised as the B61-12, with fins that allowed its fall to be guided, which is expected to enter service this year. The bombs have also been designed to be carried by new F-35A Lightning II stealth fighter jets, which would potentially make it part of the active US nuclear arsenal.

Hans Kristensen, director of FAS's nuclear information project, said the B61-12 storage sites in Europe are being upgraded and strengthened.

"The reason they're doing that is to protect that force against what they consider the growing threat from Russia's conventional missiles, so it would be an extraordinarily strange development if Nato therefore decided to move nuclear weapons closer to the Russian borders," Kristensen said.

Poland has raised the issue at a time when the prospect of nuclear weapons use is higher than at any time since the cold war, and arguably since the Cuban missile crisis 60 years ago this month.

Putin has threatened to use all means at his disposal to defend Russian territory at the same time as declaring the annexation of four more Ukrainian regions. He made the declaration as Russian troops were in retreat in the face of a Ukrainian counter-offensive.

The White House has warned of "catastrophic consequences" if Putin did resort to using nuclear weapons, but did not specify what those would be. It has said it has warned Russian officials privately, but it is not clear how much more specific those warnings have been.

Zbigniew Rau, the Polish foreign minister, said last week the consequences should be non-nuclear but "devastating". David Petraeus, who was formerly the head of US Central Command and CIA director, said on Sunday that one possible response would be US-led Nato conventional strikes on Russian forces inside Ukraine and even the sinking of Russia's Black Sea fleet.

In reality, Nato is unlikely to be part of any response, as it would require agreement by its 30 members. More likely it would involve Washington and its closest allies like the UK.

“There are ongoing discussions and have been for a while about various scenarios and how we might react,” an official in Washington said. US European Command is also doing scenario planning, the official said, adding that “there is no concrete set of actions” planned.

The dilemma facing the military planners is how to act in such a way that Putin does not benefit militarily from using a nuclear weapon, but not so forcefully that escalation spins out of control and leads inexorably to nuclear war between Nato and Russia.

Much would depend on what Putin did. The Russians could stage a “demonstration” nuclear detonation over the Black Sea, or a high-altitude airburst that generates an electromagnetic pulse that fries the electricity infrastructure of any city below.

Those actions however, would cause international outrage with little if any effect on the course of the war. The use of a nuclear weapon against Ukrainian military targets or a city, with the aim of shocking Kyiv into surrender or acceptance of partial Russian occupation would represent a far greater transgression.

The range of responses in that case would include further sanctions, including secondary sanctions targeting anyone or any country buying Russian oil. Stepping up arms supplies to Kyiv, including longer range missiles and jets the Ukrainians have been demanding, is another option.

Actual Nato strikes against Russian military targets in Ukraine, would represent a huge leap, turning the conflict into a war between Russia and Nato, something policymakers have spent nearly 80 years trying to prevent.

“The reaction to nuclear use would be just as important as the nuclear use itself,” Mariana Budjeryn, senior research associate at the project on managing the atom at the Harvard Kennedy School’s Belfer Centre.

“If it does force Ukraine into some kind of settlement and the allies think we’re throwing in the towel on this, then it does show that hey, nuclear arms really get you what you want,” Budjeryn said.

“If nuclear weapons are used, and that only makes everyone a lot more upset and hardens the resolve and somehow stops Russia in its tracks, then it’s a different story.”

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HEADLINE	10/06 Crisis-hit Haiti faces new cholera outbreak
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/oct/06/crisis-hit-haiti-braces-for-new-cholera-outbreak-as-gangs-hamper-relief-efforts
GIST	<p>Engulfed in gang violence and a series of acute humanitarian crises as hospitals are forced to close, Haiti has now been hit by a new outbreak of cholera.</p> <p>At least eight people have died in the past few days, Haiti’s public health and population ministry said on Sunday. Thousands died in the last big cholera outbreak in the country in 2010.</p> <p>More cases of the waterborne disease are likely to be circulating undetected in the gang-run slums, the World Health Organization said.</p> <p>“The situation is evolving rapidly,” WHO spokesperson Christian Lindmeier told a UN media briefing in Geneva this week. “It is possible earlier cases have been undetected.”</p>

The 2010 cholera outbreak, that infected 820,000 people and killed 10,000, lasted until January 2019 when the country reported its last infection.

Just as Haiti was close to being certified cholera-free – which requires no new confirmed cases in three years – the bacterial disease is back.

Eradicating cholera this time will be more difficult due to the myriad crises which will enable the illness's spread, say medical experts in the capital, Port-au-Prince.

Gang violence swept the city after the assassination of president Jovenel Moïse in July 2021 and is exacerbating existing crises, such as malnutrition and a lack of basic supplies.

More than 1 million people in the capital are going hungry, water is increasingly scarce and in the last week fuel shortages have forced hospitals to close.

All cholera cases confirmed so far have occurred in the slums of Cité Soleil and Carrefour Feuilles – areas controlled by armed gangs.

“Access to these areas has been very difficult since the end of July 2022 and the situation in Haiti has worsened over the past three weeks with blockades, fuel shortages, protest marches, looting and general strikes. These factors fuel the humanitarian crisis and hamper response efforts,” Lindmeier said.

People contract cholera through contaminated food or water, and the collapse of basic services across Haiti has allowed it to return, said Jude Jonathas, who manages NGO Mercy Corps' Haiti programme.

Water – for a long time scarce in Haiti's mega-slums – has become increasingly precious in recent months. Armed groups will not let water trucks into areas they control and where water pipes reach, pumps are failing because of fuel shortages.

“The structures which should normally respond quickly to this problem are on their knees,” Jonathas said.

At least 70 patients have been hospitalised in Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) treatment centres with acute diarrhoea, a common cholera symptom, the NGO's deputy head of mission in Haiti, Moha Zemrag, told the Guardian.

The fatality rate for cholera is less than 1% when simple treatments such as rehydration salts can be used, according to WHO.

But in Haiti most of the country's hospitals depend on generators run on fuel for power as the electricity grid is prone to outages, and gangs have blockaded the main fuel terminal.

Three-quarters of the nation's main hospitals are either reducing their operations or closing their doors, Unicef said on 26 September.

“This resurgence of cholera is taking place at a time when Haitian people face enormous difficulties in accessing healthcare,” said MSF in a statement on the outbreak. “Insecurity and violence, coupled with severe shortages of fuel and drinking water, have forced many health facilities to reduce their activities and in some cases to stop them altogether. In addition to this, people who need treatment find it increasingly difficult to move around as public transportation is scarcely available due to a lack of fuel in the country.”

Zemrag said he was hearing of people dying at home because they cannot reach hospitals, “because there are no hospitals, or because people do not think of going quickly to health centres”.

	<p>WHO and its partner organisations are distributing medicine and equipment in Port-au-Prince. It is also setting up cholera treatment centres, increasing the capacity for disinfection efforts to contain the spread of the disease and requesting vaccines from the International Coordinating Group on Vaccine Provision.</p> <p>Efforts to contain the outbreak will be hindered by a lack of trust of outsiders after a series of scandals involving UN peacekeepers, and a febrile political atmosphere.</p> <p>UN peacekeepers in Haiti, accused of carrying out systematic sexual abuse of women, were found to have introduced the previous cholera outbreak by dumping contaminated sewage into a river.</p> <p>False rumours are spreading throughout Haiti that the latest outbreak is a conspiracy by the government to deflect attention away from recent protests, Jonathas says.</p> <p>“Government intervention in these neighbourhoods is already complicated. Now, unfortunately, some political activists are talking about cholera being a government strategy to create a diversion,” he said.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/05 Frustration: Cuba infrastructure crumbles
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/05/cuba-infrastructure-power-hurricane-ian
GIST	<p>Yamile Sánchez leaned from her colonial-era window into the street in central Havana, a large pile of avocados visible behind her. “The damage used to be sorted out much faster,” she said. “Even when the storms were worse.”</p> <p>The avocados, dusty green in contrast to Sanchez’s worn blue shutters, each had a bruise on one side. They had fallen during the passage of Hurricane Ian last week, as had Cuba’s entire electricity grid.</p> <p>She was selling the windfall, avocados being the only thing cheap and available on the Caribbean island right now.</p> <p>Disintegrating buildings, potholed roads and an ossified transport system have left Cubans in little doubt their infrastructure is collapsing, but three major disasters in the last six months have flabbergasted the country.</p> <p>In May, 47 people were killed when one of the finest hotels in Havana, the Saratoga, was blown apart by a gas leak which sent the facade collapsing onto one of the city’s busiest streets. “Since I arrived early in the morning I had smelled gas,” said Martha Borrell Zamora, who had been teaching a maths class next door. Her blackboard bulged towards her, the windows shattered and the “children were very scared”.</p> <p>In August, a lightning strike ignited gases at Cuba’s main oil storage facility in Matanzas, starting an inferno that engulfed four huge tanks and 14 firefighters. Cubans looked at the boyish face of one – Leo Alejandro Doval Pérez de Prado, who was a brilliant student on national service when he died – and despaired.</p> <p>And last week, after the category 3 hurricane passed over the west of the country, the electricity grid for the entire 777-mile-long country collapsed. The situation was appalling for those in the path in Pinar del Río, but across Cuba scarce food began rotting in people’s refrigerators.</p> <p>In the Havana neighbourhood of Playa, Juan Diego González was swapping gossip with his friend Esteban Henríquez in the dark. They had been four days without power. “We have taken our food to the houses of friends,” he said.</p> <p>Henríquez pointed to the trees opposite, where branches had tangled the power cables. “They always used to cut the trees before the storms,” he said. “But this year they didn’t. They’re old things in an old city.”</p>

It is the most repeated complaint: the actions taken by the government in the past were no longer being followed.

The countrywide blackout followed months of regular interruptions due to the moribund state of the generating plants, leaving people to sweat out the summer nights without fans.

This latest misery has led to small-scale protests, with residents taking to the streets to bang pans, some shouting “freedom”. Exile groups have grasped at these as signs of an incipient uprising, and the government shut down the internet, presumably to stop their spread.

But in contrast to furious demonstrations in July last year, these manifestations appear more desperate. The government appear to have met them peacefully. In an editorial in the state newspaper Granma, the ruling communist party talked of “listening to the people” even as it went on to lay responsibility for the whole series of disasters with anyone or anything other than itself:

“Some [adversities] are due to natural events, others due to unfortunate accidents and many due to the enemy’s determination to break our people through hunger and need, using the disastrous monstrosity that is the United States’ blockade against Cuba.”

Whoever is to blame, Jorge Piñon, a researcher at the University of Texas’s Energy Institute, points out that an inflection point has been reached. Some of Cuba’s biggest electricity plants are more than 45 years old, operating far beyond their expected lifetimes. A greater problem yet is the state of the grid.

“They haven’t done any scheduled maintenance for years,” Piñon said. “But worse still they haven’t done any capital maintenance.”

For those without power and water over the weekend, concerns were more immediate. Food has been hard to find for several years now and a doctor, who asked not to be named, said he is expecting an upsurge in gastrointestinal problems as people eat spoiled meat and dairy.

In Havana’s most genteel suburb of Vedado, a pathos-filled scene developed late on Saturday night, four days after the storm. On one side of Línea, a main avenue, the electricity had been restored and the cafes and bars were full.

On the other side, streets led into utter darkness and out of these people emerged banging pots. Government representatives arrived, as did the police and the rapid response units used to cheerlead for the state. Arguments flared in the middle of the road and watching on was a couple, a pair of tiny babies in their arms.

No one doubts the engineers tending the ailing electricity plants and grid are miracle workers – by Monday power had reportedly been reinstated across the island barring Pinar del Río, the province where the hurricane hit – but insiders say morale is suffering. “There are very competent men working in Unión Eléctrica but increasingly they don’t ask for promotion,” said one. “Everyone knows there will be more failures, and no one wants to be the one held responsible when it goes wrong.”

In central Havana, Yamile Sánchez said the community spirit that holds Cuba together is also beginning to fray. “People used to help but now they don’t want to,” she said.

But Cubans always say that, and she immediately proved herself wrong by giving a passerby two of her avocados, resolutely refusing to be paid.

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HEADLINE	10/06 PM: Pakistan should not have to beg help
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/06/pakistani-pm-says-he-should-not-have-to-beg-for-help-after-catastrophic-floods

Shehbaz Sharif, the prime minister, has said Pakistan should not be forced to go out with a “begging bowl” to rich polluting nations after the floods that have devastated the country and said he would be seeking “climate justice” from the international community.

Speaking from his home in Lahore, Sharif warned that Pakistan is facing an unprecedented crisis of health, food security and internal displacement after the “apocalyptic” monsoons which put a third of Pakistan’s regions under water. Some areas were hit by 1.7m of rainfall, the highest on record.

Scientists have determined that the floods were due to climate breakdown. But with Pakistan responsible for 0.8% of global carbon emissions, Sharif said it was the “responsibility of the developed countries, who caused these emissions, to stand by us”.

“I’ve never seen this kind of devastation, inundation and suffering of our people in my lifetime,” said Sharif. “Millions have been displaced, they have become climate refugees within their own country.”

While the international community has given billions in funds and donations and commitments for further support, Sharif was clear it was “not enough”. “The enormity of this climate-induced catastrophe is beyond our fiscal means,” he said. “The gap between our needs and what is available is too wide and it is widening by the day.”

The official death toll from the floods is 1,600, though many estimates on the ground have been higher. More than nine million people have been displaced and over 2m homes destroyed, and millions of families have been forced to live in makeshift tents or shelters on roadsides.

The extent of the damage has been put at between \$30bn and \$35bn but Sharif said it was “a rough estimate, it could be more”, with more than 30,000km of roads destroyed along with bridges, railways and power lines, as well as 4m hectares (10m acres) of crops washed away.

“Let me be clear, this is about climate justice,” said Sharif. “We are not blaming anybody, we’re not casting allegations, what we are saying is this is not of our making but we have become a victim. Should I be asked to cast my appeal into a begging bowl? That is double jeopardy. That’s unjust, unfair.”

Even before the floods hit, Pakistan was facing economic catastrophe, with soaring inflation, mounting foreign debt repayments and fast-diminishing foreign currency reserves. Sharif’s government, who took over in April after the previous prime minister Imran Khan was toppled in a vote of no-confidence, had revived the programme with the International Monetary Fund to provide some economic stability to the country, but the funds have come with painful and unpopular conditions.

Sharif was adamant that even with the billions in upcoming foreign debt repayments, and the billions more now in flood damages, the country had averted default though the IMF deal, and would still be able to service the rest of its foreign debt payments, which total around \$22bn for the next year. “No way. We will not default,” he said.

Sharif confirmed they would be talking to “everybody” – including China and the Paris Club – about the possibility of foreign debt moratorium. “What we are asking for is fiscal space but not through the burden of more debt,” he said.

But Ishaq Dar, the newly appointed finance minister, said in a separate interview that he was reluctant to turn to the Paris Club, a collective of nations including the US, UK, Australia and France that help countries struggling with debt.

“If the global community cooperates, donates and helps with the reconstruction, then I think we can avoid it,” said Dar. “Going to the Paris Club is not a very comfortable feeling so I hope we will not have to resort to it.”

Though the rainfall has stopped, many areas in Pakistan – particularly in the region of Sindh – still remain flooded. The humanitarian crisis in Pakistan continues to worsen as the stagnant water is causing diseases such as malaria and dengue to run rife, with children falling sick in large numbers and hospitals overwhelmed.

Sharif’s government has faced criticism as aid and assistance has still not reached large swathes of the affected people who are living without access to clean water, food and shelter in the regions of Sindh and Balochistan. “I concede that, because of the vastness of the problem, we have not been able to do the job so far as it should have been done,” said Sharif. “But look at the distances alone. Some of these areas were cut off completely.”

With corruption rife at local level in Pakistan, many have also voiced concern that while billions are flowing into the country, it may end up in the pockets of a few local administrators and leaders. Sharif was insistent that the Benazir income support programme (BISP) being used to disburse the flood relief funds is known for its transparency.

Pakistan’s plight has captured the attention of the international community, with the UN general secretary, António Guterres, calling the floods “climate carnage” on a scale he had never seen before. Last month, President Biden used his speech at the UN general assembly in New York to urge countries to help Pakistan, and the leaders of the UK, France, Saudi Arabia, China and many more have given millions in donations and pledged further support.

Sharif said while he was grateful for the “very touching words and statements”, it was “all very fine but more important is practical demonstration of these statements into action”.

He said: “While they are doing a very good job, and we appreciate it, this is not enough. They must come forward with a far better and a far bigger plan to rescue us and rehabilitate us and put us back on our footing.”

Sharif pointed to the unfulfilled promise made by rich nations over a decade ago to commit \$100bn a year in a climate fund for less developed nations on the forefront of the climate emergency. “Where’s that money?” asked Sharif. “It’s high time that we question and remind these countries to fulfil their commitments and pledges they have made.”

However, while many Pakistani commentators, as well as Sharif’s own climate minister, have been calling not for aid but for climate reparations from the wealthy polluting nations, Sharif was quick to push back on this suggestion.

“We’re not asking about reparations,” he said. “No, we’re not. I don’t think talk of reparations is proper at this point in time. What I am saying is that they should take notice of the situation, take responsibility and act speedily before it’s too late, before the damage becomes irreparable – not just for Pakistan, but for the world.”

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HEADLINE	10/05 War supporters turn up Kremlin criticism
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/05/attempts-to-play-down-retreats-ukraine-russia-war-kremlin-military-failure
GIST	<p>After Russia’s chaotic retreats in Kherson – less than a week after Vladimir Putin illegally annexed the Ukrainian province alongside three others – the region’s Moscow-appointed governor, Kirill Stremousov, sought to calm the mood.</p> <p>Far from a rout, the withdrawal was a tactical “regrouping” to “deliver a retaliatory blow”, Stremousov said on Wednesday.</p>

His comments – among the first public admissions of Russia’s retreats in Kherson – attempted to mask what even many vocal supporters of the war now say: the situation is the most dire the Russian army has found itself in since the start of the invasion seven months ago.

“Friends, I know you’re waiting for me to comment on the situation. But I really don’t know what to say to you. The retreat ... is catastrophic,” Roman Saponkov, a prominent war correspondent, wrote on his Telegram channel, describing his despair over the pullback in Kherson.

The extent of Russia’s retreat remains unclear for now. During his nightly address on Tuesday, Ukraine’s president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, said: “The Ukrainian army is making quite fast and powerful movements in the south of our country.” He named eight small towns in Kherson that had recently been recaptured.

When asked by journalists on Wednesday whether there was a contradiction between Russia’s annexation rhetoric and the reality on the ground, the Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said there was none whatsoever. The territories “will be with Russia forever and they will be returned”, he added.

No such confidence could be felt, however, among the pro-war military bloggers and journalists, [an increasingly vocal group with frontline contacts and millions of readers](#) that have taken to criticising the Kremlin for its failure to achieve its goals.

They paint a bleak picture of deteriorating Russian morale, blaming a lack of rotation and army exhaustion for the failings in southern Ukraine.

“I get criticised for driving people into depression with my news ... well, the time is such, there will be no good news from the near future,” wrote Aleksandr Kots, a pro-Kremlin journalist who travels with the Russian army, on Tuesday.

“We do not have enough people ... fatigue has set in ... there is no longer any strength left to hold on to the territories won.”

On the day [Putin announced his so-called “partial mobilisation” last month](#), the contracts of soldiers fighting in Ukraine were also automatically extended indefinitely. That decision has denied many who have been fighting since February a way out of the war.

“We get hundreds of requests every day from soldiers who want to find a way to cancel their contracts,” said one military lawyer who asked to speak anonymously, for fear of infringing Russian laws that criminalise “fake” news about the military.

“Most soldiers had no idea they were going to Ukraine when the war started. They were hoping to get out once their contracts expired. Now that’s simply not possible any more.”

[Russia’s surrender of Lyman](#), a strategically important city in the north of the Donetsk region, had already led to rare public criticism of senior military leadership from several top officials.

“I do not know what the defence ministry reports to [Putin], but in my personal opinion, more drastic measures should be taken,” wrote the Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov.

The Russian army has sought to play down Saturday’s retreat from Lyman as a minor military setback during which it had inflicted heavy casualties on Ukrainian troops in the fight for the city.

But according to an [investigation](#) by BBC News Russia, one of Russia’s most elite military intelligence units suffered high casualties during that retreat. The 3rd Guards Spetsnaz Brigade has now lost up to three-quarters of its reconnaissance force since the start of the war, the BBC service claimed.

The latest military failures, seemingly too big to ignore, have also now spilled on to Russian television screens.

“Why do we advance metre by metre when they advance village by village?” Olga Skabeyeva, the country’s top state-TV host, angrily asked Andrei Marochko, a Russia-appointed official in Luhansk, in a recent broadcast.

The Kremlin will hope the first mobilisation drive announced last month will soon be able to stem the losses.

The Russian defence minister, Sergei Shoigu, said on Tuesday that 200,000 men had already been mobilised and were at 80 training grounds and six training centres across Russia.

The defence ministry also published slick videos of recruits being trained by soldiers, accompanied by other footage showing them arriving in Russian-controlled areas of Luhansk where they were greeted by cheerful locals.

But a government propaganda [campaign](#) has not prevented the mobilisation drive from sparking chaos and anger across Russia. That anger increased after videos emerged that showed scores of men being subjected to poor conditions at training centres as they waited to be sent to Ukraine.

At least six recruits have died in training centres since the start of the mobilisation, Pavel Chikov, one of Russia’s leading human right lawyers, said on Tuesday. One of the recruits reportedly killed himself.

In arguably the most embarrassing mobilisation video to date for the Kremlin, a group of mobilised soldiers from the Siberian Omsk region are seen [appealing](#) to the authorities for the pay promised by the government for participating in the war. “We are ready to go. But please help us, help our families,” one of them said.

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HEADLINE	10/06 Russian missiles hit Ukraine civilian targets
SOURCE	https://www.wsj.com/articles/russian-missiles-hit-civilian-targets-in-southeastern-ukraine-11665046368?mod=hp_lead_pos6
GIST	<p>KYIV, Ukraine—Russian missiles struck the city center of the southeastern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia, killing at least two people early on Thursday while Ukraine’s forces reclaimed more territory from Moscow, according to senior Ukrainian officials.</p> <p>At least seven missiles struck the city in an attack that hit a series of apartment buildings, according to Kirill Timoshenko, a Ukrainian presidential adviser. At least six people were also wounded in the strike, he said. Zaporizhzhia and the surrounding area have been a focal point of Russian attacks in recent months after Russia seized control of the nearby nuclear power plant with the same name.</p> <p>Verified video of the aftermath of the attack showed smoke rising from the ruins of a building that had been reduced to rubble, while firefighters searched for survivors. Mr. Timoshenko said on Thursday morning that a rescue operation was under way.</p> <p>Russian authorities didn’t immediately comment on the attack.</p> <p>Ukrainian officials have said that Russia has escalated a campaign of attacks that have struck civilian targets in recent weeks at a time when Moscow’s forces are losing ground to a swift Ukrainian military offensive. Ukrainian leaders have accused Russia of deliberately attacking civilians, including in strikes far behind the front lines of the war, in an attempt to put psychological pressure on Ukraine’s broader population.</p>

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Wednesday night that his forces had recaptured three villages in Ukraine's southern Kherson region, accelerating his forces' lightning offensive aimed at rolling back Russia's occupation in the east. In his nightly address to the nation, he said Ukrainian forces had seized the villages of Novovoskresenske, Novohryhorivka and Petropavlivka.

The villages were in one of the regions of Ukraine claimed by Russian President [Vladimir Putin](#) as part of Russia in a constitutional decree he signed on Wednesday. Mr. Putin formally declared four regions of Ukraine as Russian territory in [a ceremony in Moscow](#) on Sept. 30. Among foreign nations, only North Korea has accepted Russia's rule over the territories.

Mr. Putin declared the annexation of a swath of Ukraine, [mobilized hundreds of thousands of reservists](#) and threatened nuclear strikes last month in an attempt to [escalate the war](#) following weeks in which his grip on eastern Ukraine has receded due to Ukraine's military offensive. Russia doesn't fully control any of the four regions of Ukraine that it declared as part of its territory.

The Ukrainian offensive has appeared to gather momentum in recent days, with Ukraine's forces seizing more territory [with the help of hundreds of captured Russian tanks](#), armored vehicles and other military hardware.

The U.K.'s Ministry of Defense said on Thursday that Ukraine had begun "a new phase of offensive operations" in the Kherson region on Oct. 2, pushing the front line up about 12 miles.

"Russian forces have typically broken contact and withdrawn," the ministry said.

In his address on Wednesday night, Mr. Zelensky also pushed back on Russia's use of Iranian-made drones to strike deep inside Ukraine. A drone attack early on Wednesday [hit a military headquarters](#) about 50 miles south of Kyiv, causing severe damage to the facility and unsettling civilians living in the surrounding town. "It won't help you anyway. You have already lost," Mr. Zelensky said of the drone strikes.

The Ukrainian military also said on Thursday that it shot down nine more Russian drones in southern Ukraine.

Russia introduced [a new challenge for Ukraine's air defenses](#) when it began using the Iranian-made Shahed-136 delta-wing drones in recent weeks. The relatively small drones fly at a low altitude, making them difficult for air-defense systems to detect, military analysts say.

Russian forces also killed four civilians and wounded three others in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, according to the region's governor, Pavlo Kyrylenko. The governor, who offered few other details, also said on Thursday that the bodies of 10 civilians had been found in the newly freed towns of Sviatohirsk and Lyman.

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HEADLINE	10/05 Captured Russian weapons fuel offensive
SOURCE	https://www.wsj.com/articles/ukraines-new-offensive-is-fueled-by-captured-russian-weapons-11664965264?mod=series_rusukrainenato
GIST	<p>KUPYANSK, Ukraine—Captured and abandoned Russian tanks, howitzers and fighting vehicles—quickly scrubbed of their Z tactical markers and repainted with Ukrainian crosses—are being turned against their former owners as Ukraine's military advances in the eastern part of the country.</p> <p>Ukraine's rapid breakthrough in the Kharkiv region a month ago ended up putting hundreds of pieces of Russian armor into Kyiv's hands, military officials say, as the Russian army left behind its heavy weapons and warehouses of supplies in a disorganized retreat.</p>

Some Russian pieces of equipment were ready for immediate use, while others are being repaired to return to the front. Tanks, vehicles and guns too damaged to salvage are being cannibalized for spare parts. Crucially, Russia has also left behind large quantities of Soviet-standard artillery shells that had nearly run out in Ukraine.

This haul is helping power Ukrainian forces as they retake parts of the eastern Donetsk region, [including the town of Lyman](#), and push further east into nearby Luhansk. Kyiv has regained more than 4,000 square miles of land in the east over the past month, in addition to [advances in the south](#).

One Ukrainian battalion, the Carpathian Sich, seized 10 modern T-80 tanks and five 2S5 Giatsint 152-mm self-propelled howitzers after it entered the town of Izyum last month, said its deputy chief of staff, Ruslan Andriyko.

“We’ve got so many trophies that we don’t even know what to do with them,” he said. “We started off as an infantry battalion, and now we are sort of becoming a mechanized battalion.”

The chief of staff of a Ukrainian artillery battalion on the Kharkiv front said his unit now operates four recently captured Russian 2S19 Msta 152-mm self-propelled howitzers, alongside American-made guns, and now has abundant Soviet-caliber ammunition.

“The Russians no longer have a firepower advantage. We smashed up all their artillery units before launching the offensive, and then we started to move ahead so fast that they didn’t even have time to fuel up and load their tanks,” said the officer. “They just fled and left everything behind.”

Combined with weapons taken during Russia’s retreat from Kyiv and other parts of northern Ukraine in April, these recent gains have turned Moscow into by far the largest supplier of heavy weapons for Ukraine, well ahead of the U.S. or other allies in sheer numbers, according to open-source intelligence analysts. Western-provided weapons, though, are usually more advanced and precise.

Ukraine has captured 460 Russian main battle tanks, 92 self-propelled howitzers, 448 infantry fighting vehicles, 195 armored fighting vehicles and 44 multiple-launch rocket systems, according to visual evidence compiled from social media and news reports from Oryx, an open-source intelligence consulting firm. The real number is likely higher as not every captured piece of equipment gets filmed.

Not all the gear is cutting edge. “What they are capturing is a mix of modern equipment that they can use quite effectively, and some that really belongs in museums,” said Jakub Janovsky, who compiles the count of weapons losses at Oryx.

Russia has also seized Ukrainian weapons, mostly in the early days of the war as it overran large parts of the country. According to Oryx’s count, Russia captured 109 Ukrainian tanks, 15 self-propelled guns and 63 infantry fighting vehicles since February.

At Izyum, Ukraine gained more advanced Russian armor, such as T-90 tanks and BTR-82 infantry fighting vehicles with automatic cannon. The commander of Ukraine’s 92nd brigade, which played a major role on the Kharkiv front, was filmed this week taking a ride in a T-90, which wasn’t part of the Ukrainian arsenal before the war.

Western allies haven’t sent Western-made tanks to Ukraine. But Kyiv has received around 230 upgraded T-72 tanks from Poland and a few dozen more from the Czech Republic. American and European aid focused on providing Ukraine with North Atlantic Treaty Organization-standard precision artillery, such as the U.S.-made M777 and Paladin, German Panzerhaubitze 2000 and Polish Krab howitzers, as well as the Himars missile systems. These weapons allowed Kyiv to hold the line once it started to run out of Soviet-caliber artillery shells in May.

	<p>Ukraine’s experience learning how to operate different weapons systems in a relatively short time has made it easier to repurpose the recently acquired Russian weapons, said Col. Serhiy Cherevatyi of Ukraine’s Operational Command East.</p> <p>“They are of the Soviet construction school that is easy to understand for us,” he said. “If our people have managed to learn how to use the Panzerhaubitze, the Krabs and the American Paladins, it’s not at all a problem to master the Russian systems that are similar to ours.”</p> <p>While Ukrainian units often keep smaller captured weapons and ammunition, big-ticket items such as tanks and artillery are usually redistributed through the military’s logistics command, said Oleksiy Danilov, head of the country’s National Security and Defense Council. “But, even then, they usually stay in the same area, which is only fair,” he added.</p> <p>Carpathian Sich, for example, transferred to other parts of the military captured howitzers and kept tanks for which it could find crews. The battalion commander said these tanks have now been formally allocated to the unit and are regularly supplied by the military’s logistics with ammunition and fuel, and serviced by visiting crews from Ukrainian tank plants. Ukraine was a major tank manufacturer and exporter before the war.</p> <p>“Gaining the trophies gives us a sense of pride and raises everyone’s combat spirits,” said the commander, who used a captured Russian assault rifle in a recent battle during which the battalion seized a village in the Donetsk region.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/05 US: Ukraine behind assassination in Russia
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/05/us/politics/ukraine-russia-dugina-assassination.html
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON — United States intelligence agencies believe parts of the Ukrainian government authorized the car bomb attack near Moscow in August that killed Daria Dugina, the daughter of a prominent Russian nationalist, an element of a covert campaign that U.S. officials fear could widen the conflict.</p> <p>The United States took no part in the attack, either by providing intelligence or other assistance, officials said.</p> <p>American officials also said they were not aware of the operation ahead of time and would have opposed the killing had they been consulted. Afterward, American officials admonished Ukrainian officials over the assassination, they said.</p> <p>The closely held assessment of Ukrainian complicity, which has not been previously reported, was shared within the U.S. government last week. Ukraine denied involvement in the killing immediately after the attack, and senior officials repeated those denials when asked about the American intelligence assessment.</p> <p>While Russia has not retaliated in a specific way for the assassination, the United States is concerned that such attacks — while high in symbolic value — have little direct impact on the battlefield and could provoke Moscow to carry out its own strikes against senior Ukrainian officials. American officials have been frustrated with Ukraine’s lack of transparency about its military and covert plans, especially on Russian soil.</p> <p>Since the beginning of the war, Ukraine’s security services have demonstrated their ability to reach into Russia to conduct sabotage operations. The killing of Ms. Dugina, however, would be one of the boldest operations to date — showing Ukraine can get very close to prominent Russians.</p> <p>Some American officials suspect Ms. Dugina’s father, Aleksandr Dugin, a Russian ultranationalist, was the actual target of the operation, and that the operatives who carried it out believed he would be in the vehicle with his daughter.</p>

Mr. Dugin, one of Russia's most prominent voices urging Moscow to intensify its war on Ukraine, has been a leading proponent of an aggressive, imperialist Russia.

The American officials who spoke about the intelligence did not disclose which elements of the Ukrainian government were believed to have authorized the mission, who carried out the attack, or whether President Volodymyr Zelensky had signed off on the mission. United States officials briefed on the Ukrainian action and the American response spoke on the condition of anonymity, in order to discuss secret information and matters of sensitive diplomacy.

U.S. officials would not say who in the American government delivered the admonishments or whom in the Ukrainian government they were delivered to. It was not known what Ukraine's response was.

While the Pentagon and spy agencies have shared sensitive battlefield intelligence with the Ukrainians, helping them zero in on Russian command posts, supply lines and other key targets, the Ukrainians have not always told American officials what they plan to do.

The United States has pressed Ukraine to share more about its war plans, with mixed success. Earlier in the war, U.S. officials acknowledged that they often knew more about Russian war plans — thanks to their intense collection efforts — [than they did about Kyiv's intentions](#).

Cooperation has since increased. During the summer, Ukraine [shared its plans](#) for its September military counteroffensive with the United States and Britain.

U.S. officials also lack a complete picture of the competing power centers within the Ukrainian government, including the military, the security services and Mr. Zelensky's office. This may explain why some parts of the Ukrainian government may not have been aware of the plot.

When asked about the U.S. intelligence assessment, Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to Ukraine's president, reiterated the Ukrainian government's denials of involvement in Ms. Dugina's killing.

"Again, I'll underline that any murder during wartime in some country or another must carry with it some kind of practical significance," Mr. Podolyak told The New York Times in an interview on Tuesday. "It should fulfill some specific purpose, tactical or strategic. Someone like Dugina is not a tactical or a strategic target for Ukraine.

"We have other targets on the territory of Ukraine," he said, "I mean collaborationists and representatives of the Russian command, who might have value for members of our special services working in this program, but certainly not Dugina."

Though details surrounding acts of sabotage in Russian-controlled territory have been shrouded in mystery, the Ukrainian government has quietly acknowledged killing Russian officials in Ukraine and sabotaging Russian arms factories and weapons depots.

A senior Ukrainian military official who declined to be identified because of the sensitivity of the topic, said that Ukrainian forces, with the help of local fighters, had carried out assassinations and attacks on accused Ukrainian collaborators and Russian officials in occupied Ukrainian territories. These include the Kremlin-installed head of the Kherson region, who was poisoned in August and had to be evacuated to Moscow for emergency treatment.

Countries traditionally do not discuss other nations' covert actions, for fear of having their own operations revealed, but some American officials believe it is crucial to curb what they see as dangerous adventurism, particularly political assassinations.

Still, American officials in recent days have taken pains to insist that relations between the two governments remain strong. U.S. concerns about Ukraine's aggressive covert operations inside Russia

have not prompted any known changes in the provision of intelligence, military and diplomatic support to Mr. Zelensky's government or to Ukraine's security services.

In a phone call on Saturday, Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken told his Ukrainian counterpart, Dmytro Kuleba, that the Biden administration "will continue to support Ukraine's efforts to regain control of its territory by strengthening its hand militarily and diplomatically," according to Ned Price, the State Department's spokesman.

Officials from the State Department, National Security Council, Pentagon and C.I.A. declined to comment on the intelligence assessment.

The war in Ukraine is at an especially dangerous moment. The United States has tried carefully to avoid unnecessary escalation with Moscow throughout the conflict — in part by telling Kyiv not to use American equipment or intelligence to conduct attacks inside of Russia. But now, the [recent battlefield successes](#) by Ukraine have prompted Russia to respond with a series of escalatory steps, like conducting a [partial mobilization](#) and moving to [annex swaths of eastern Ukraine](#).

Concern is growing in Washington that Russia may be considering further steps to intensify the war, including by renewing efforts to assassinate prominent Ukrainian leaders. Mr. Zelensky would be the top target of Russian assassination teams, as he was during the Russian assault on Kyiv earlier in the war. But now, American officials said Russia could target a wide variety of Ukrainian leaders, many of whom have less protection than Mr. Zelensky.

The United States and Europe had imposed sanctions on Ms. Dugina. She shared her father's worldview and was accused by the West of spreading Russian propaganda about Ukraine.

Russia opened a murder investigation after Ms. Dugina's assassination, calling the explosion that killed her a terrorist act. Ms. Dugina was killed instantly in the explosion, which occurred in the Odintsovo district, an affluent area in Moscow's suburbs.

After the bombing, speculation centered on whether Ukraine was responsible or if it was a false flag operation meant to pin blame on Ukrainians. [The bombing took place after a series of Ukrainian strikes in Crimea](#), part of Ukraine that Russia seized in 2014. Those strikes had led ultranationalists in Mr. Dugin's circle to urge Mr. Putin to intensify the war in Ukraine.

Russia's domestic intelligence service, the F.S.B., blamed Ms. Dugina's murder on Ukraine's intelligence services. In an announcement made [a day after the attack](#), the F.S.B. said that Ukrainian operatives had contracted a Ukrainian woman, who entered Russia in July and rented an apartment where Ms. Dugina lived. The woman then fled Russia after the bombing, according to the F.S.B.

Ilya Ponomarev, a former member of the Russian Duma who voted against the annexation of Crimea, has claimed that a group made up of pro-Ukrainian and anti-Putin fighters operating in Russia known as the National Republican Army was responsible for the killing.

In an interview with The New York Times, Mr. Ponomarev claimed to be in contact with the National Republican Army and was aware of the operation against Ms. Dugina several hours before it occurred. Many officials in Washington have been skeptical of Mr. Ponomarev's claims on behalf of the group.

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HEADLINE	10/05 In retreat, Russia strikes deep into Ukraine
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/05/world/europe/ukraine-russia-war.html
GIST	DNIPRO, Ukraine — Losing ground to Ukraine's counteroffensive, Russian forces lashed out at targets far from the front line on Wednesday, striking one distant city with a flurry of what Ukrainian officials said were self-destructing, Iranian-supplied drones.

At least half a dozen of the weapons, known as kamikaze drones, detonated in Bila Tserkva, about 50 miles south of Kyiv and hundreds of miles from the fighting, the officials said.

The goal of the attack was unclear, but since September, when Ukrainian fighters began pushing Russian forces out of occupied territory in the northeast, Moscow has been targeting electrical power stations, electricity transmission lines and waterworks with long-range weaponry. The strikes in Bila Tserkva also hit infrastructure, Oleksiy Kuleba, head of the regional military administration, [said](#) in a post on Telegram, the messaging application. He did not provide details.

In the attack on Wednesday, Russia launched a swarm of 12 drones from territory it controls in southern Ukraine, Yuriy Ihnat, the spokesman for Ukraine's Air Force, said in an interview on television. Antiaircraft units shot down three, and Ukrainian jet pilots shot down another three, he said.

In another attack on infrastructure, a Russian missile barrage targeted sites in and around the city of Zaporizhzhia in southern Ukraine, a regional military governor said.

Military analysts have suggested that the strikes may be intended, in part, to undermine support inside Ukraine for the war, but there is little evidence of that happening, even among Ukrainians at risk of being hit by their own military as the counteroffensive advances.

"Every explosion makes us happy," declared Serhiy, a retiree living in the southern Kherson region. "You know I'm imagining now how much all of us will cry and hug our soldiers when we see them."

The fighting in regions to the east only deepened the incongruity of the scenes playing out on Wednesday in Russia. There, President Vladimir V. Putin announced the signing of more than 400 pages of legislation purporting to formally annex four Ukrainian regions — Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia.

In doing so, the Russian leader forged ahead with an alternate reality in which Moscow pretends to exercise sovereignty over thousands of square miles of territory that its military does not actually control.

Russian state television trumpeted the signing as the day's biggest news story, while playing down or ignoring the fact that Russian forces were in retreat on multiple parts of the front line.

Mr. Putin's spokesman, Dmitri S. Peskov, bristled when reporters asked about the wide divide between the narrative of Russia's staterooms and the losses its demoralized military is taking on the ground in the regions the Kremlin covets.

"There's no contradiction here," Mr. Peskov said. "They will be with Russia forever."

Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelensky, responded to Mr. Putin's signing of the annexation measures, which much of the world has condemned as illegal, with his own flourish of paperwork.

"I signed a decree designating null and void all decrees of the president of the Russian Federation and all acts adopted to implement these decrees for attempted annexation of our territory from 2014 until today," he told Ukrainians. "Any Russian decisions, any treaties with which they try to seize our land — all this is worthless."

Moscow also moved to "nationalize" the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, which is occupied by Russian troops but still operated by Ukrainian staff, even as fighting raged nearby. The International Atomic Energy Agency said on Wednesday that its representatives at the plant, which has been shelled repeatedly, had learned from the Ukrainian operators that they intended to restart one of the six reactors.

The Kremlin's moves came as Western efforts to punish Moscow for the invasion of Ukraine received a setback from global oil producers, which on Wednesday decided to sharply cut the supply, aiming to drive up the price on the world market. The reduction was announced at a meeting in Vienna by the group known as OPEC Plus.

Russia hopes the move will make its crude more valuable, allowing the country, despite the heavy economic sanctions leveled against it, to continue earning significant revenue from its crude exports. At the same time, the European Union on Wednesday agreed to an American plan to cap the price of oil sales by Russia, though not by other countries.

In Washington, meanwhile, officials said that intelligence agencies believed parts of the Ukrainian government had authorized a car bombing near Moscow in August that killed Daria A. Dugina, the daughter of a prominent Russian nationalist, an element of a covert campaign that American officials fear could widen the conflict. They said that her father, Aleksandr G. Dugin, might have been the intended target.

The closely held assessment of Ukrainian complicity was shared within the U.S. government last week. Ukraine denied involvement in the killing immediately after the attack, and senior officials repeated those denials when asked about the intelligence assessment.

Iran has also denied that its attack drones were being deployed in Ukraine, but [American and Iranian officials](#) said in August that Tehran had delivered to Russia a first batch of its drones as part of a larger order totaling in the hundreds.

The strikes south of Kyiv on Wednesday appeared to be the first time that kamikaze drones had been used against a target near the Ukrainian capital, and they highlighted Russia's growing reliance on the weapons, Ukrainian officials say. The Iranian drones first turned up in August in attacks on armored vehicles and artillery in the country's northeast.

Their use in Ukraine marks the first time the weapons have been deployed outside the Middle East, and comes as Moscow finds its arsenal of domestically made drones increasingly depleted, with few nations willing to supply it with weapons.

In another possible sign that Moscow's missile supply is dwindling, the Russian military overnight fired two S-300 anti-aircraft missiles that had been repurposed for ground attack, the Ukrainian military said. Military analysts have suggested Russia may be running low on long-range missiles after seven months of war and thousands of strikes.

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HEADLINE	10/06 Brokers eye private arms sales to Ukraine
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/06/world/europe/ukraine-private-arms-deals.html
GIST	<p>EUREKA, Mo. — After falling out with his partner at a limousine company in the St. Louis suburbs, Martin Zlatev recently sought a lucrative new business opportunity: selling \$30 million worth of rockets, grenade launchers and ammunition to the Ukrainian military.</p> <p>Mr. Zlatev and his new business partner, a local osteopath, took their first crack at international arms dealing. Contract documents and other records obtained by The New York Times show that the deal relied on layers of middlemen and transit across seven countries. And it exists in a legal gray area, designed to skirt the arms-export rules of other countries.</p> <p>“Time is of the essence,” the pair recently wrote to Ukraine’s Ministry of Defense. They outlined a plan to sell American, Bulgarian and Bosnian arms to Ukraine.</p> <p>Since the Russian invasion in February, the Biden administration has quietly fast-tracked hundreds of millions of dollars’ worth of private arms sales to Ukraine, slashing a weeklong approval process to a matter of hours. In just the first four months of the year — the latest data available — the State Department authorized more than \$300 million in private deals to Ukraine, government documents show. The department authorized less than \$15 million worth of such sales to Ukraine during all of the 2021 fiscal year.</p>

That has helped open another stream of weapons to the Ukrainian battlefield, but it has also enticed new players like Mr. Zlatev and his partner, Heather Gjorgjievski, into a shadowy market. Weapons sold through private brokers are far more likely to end up on the black market and resurface in the hands of American adversaries, according to government advisers and academics who study the trade. Recent experience in Afghanistan and Syria shows that, without strict tracing policies, weapons can end up with terrorist groups or hostile military forces.

These private arms sales are a pittance compared to the more than \$17.5 billion worth of machine guns, anti-tank missiles and other security aid the White House has sent to Ukraine. But those deals have stringent tracking requirements to help ensure the weapons go to their intended recipients. Private sales come with less oversight. The sellers, the buyers and the weapons are all kept out of the public eye.

“It’s the Wild West,” said Olga Torres, a lawyer who represents arms exporters and serves on the federal Defense Trade Advisory Group. “We are seeing a lot of people who were previously not involved in arms sales getting involved now because they see the opportunity.”

In recent months, Ms. Torres said, she has consulted with a Texas nonprofit that tried to send weapons to Ukraine without realizing it needed U.S. permission, and a broker who wanted to sell Indian weapons to Ukraine but illegally claim they were American. (She said she did not ultimately represent the broker.)

Just as it has cut the approval time for deals to under a day, the State Department has also accelerated the registration process for new arms dealers.

“Generally, this is a process that takes 60 days,” Mr. Zlatev wrote in a letter to the Ukrainian defense ministry. “We were approved in seven days.”

At home on a suburban cul-de-sac on a recent Tuesday, Mr. Zlatev, 45, came to the door and denied any knowledge of an arms deal. “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he said when shown copies of contracts for rockets, grenade launchers and bullets drafted by his company and the Ukraine Ministry of Defense.

Leaving her medical office later that day, Dr. Gjorgjievski, 46, acknowledged knowing about the deal but would not discuss it.

Richard El-Rassy, a lawyer for Mr. Zlatev’s company, later sent an email explaining that the company aimed “to facilitate potential defense trade transactions with allied foreign nations.” He said the State Department had approved the company’s request to move ahead with a deal.

With a typical arms broker commission, the pair would stand to make more than \$2 million.

Records show the deal was in its final stages, with both sides having reviewed and revised the contract.

But after The Times asked both Mr. El-Rassy and the Ukrainian government why the deal relied on falsified documents to evade foreign export laws, the lawyer sent a new statement saying the deal was off. Both Bosnia and Bulgaria, two key weapons sources in the deal, have publicly said they do not allow arms exports to Ukraine.

The Biden administration encourages private sector deals for several reasons. It saves the Pentagon from further depleting its own armory after months of sending arms to Ukraine. And private sellers can provide weapons that the government cannot — like the Soviet-style weapons already used by Ukrainian soldiers.

Not all private sales carry the same risk. Foreign governments, for example, frequently buy weapons from major American defense contractors. Deals like the one Mr. Zlatev proposed are different. Rather

than selling directly, they involve brokering arms sales from other countries, with numerous middlemen in between.

Records show that Mr. Zlatev and Dr. Gjorgjievski planned to supply Ukraine with bullets produced in the United States and weaponry from Bulgaria and Bosnia.

Each of the deal's many intermediaries is a potential point for weapons to be diverted, experts say. That's especially true when dealing with countries like Ukraine and Bulgaria with well-documented corruption and free-flowing black-market arms.

"All the risks — diversion, escalation, corruption — are all magnified by the fact that we don't have visibility into these private-sector deals," said Elias Yousif, a researcher with the Stimson Center, a Washington research group that studies the arms trade. "You encourage this entire economy that exists in this gray space across borders and with people of questionable motives."

While lawyers say they have seen an influx of new brokers, a State Department spokesman said that the department had not compiled data for 2022 to say for sure. Regardless, the spokesman said that brokered arms deals like the ones Mr. Zlatev proposed represent a small fraction of the American-authorized arms trade.

The State Department has a tracking program that examines a portion of the deals, looking for risks of arms being diverted, among other concerns. Of the 19,125 export requests that the department authorized in fiscal year 2021, the tracking program checked 281.

Mr. Zlatev, who is originally from Bulgaria, got into the arms business last December during a perilous moment both at home and abroad. Russian troops were massing near the Ukrainian border. The pandemic destroyed business travel to St. Louis, crushing the limo industry, and Mr. Zlatev had a falling out with his business partner.

He based his business, BMI US LLC, in Eureka, a small city on the far outskirts of St. Louis. The company shares an address with a firearms training facility, next to a Mexican restaurant. A trainer there said Mr. Zlatev rents space because federal regulations require some arms dealers to have a physical address.

Later corporate filings show Dr. Gjorgjievski as a partner. They got BMI letterhead with cross hairs over the "I."

The timing was perfect. Ukrainian authorities were soon scouring the world for weapons, looking to quickly spend whatever was necessary to bolster the front lines. For instance, a state-owned Ukrainian company began contacting American arms brokers, looking to buy tanks, mortars and Soviet-style MiG-29 fighter jets, according to letters obtained by The Times.

The American side of the BMI deal was relatively straightforward, documents show. Once the Ukrainian government deposited about \$25 million in the company's Bank of America account, BMI would pay a middleman for 2.2 million rounds of surplus U.S. military ammunition and fly it to Poland. From there, drivers would truck the bullets to Ukraine.

Separately, BMI would buy 540 anti-tank rocket-propelled grenade launchers and 22 mortars from a Bosnian producer. These weapons would travel by truck convoy through Croatia, Slovenia, Austria, Slovakia and Poland to the Ukrainian border, according to the deal documents.

Mr. Zlatev also planned to ship 900 air-to-ground rockets from Bulgaria, through Poland, to Ukraine.

The Bosnian and Bulgarian deals, worth about \$5 million, were complicated by the weapons export bans in both countries.

Records show that BMI planned to get around that by providing documents to the Bosnian and Bulgarian governments falsely claiming that the arms would end up in Poland, rather than Ukraine, according to a plan Mr. Zlatev sent to Oleksandr Liiev, a former Crimean tourism official who now procures weapons for the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense.

The legality of using falsified records is murky, say lawyers and academics who work in the field. BMI's documents say it was honest with the State Department about the weapons' real destination. But the use of subterfuge abroad would make an already murky trade even more opaque, and risk upsetting allied foreign governments.

"Anytime there's fake end-user certificates, that should be a red flag to the State Department," said Jodi Vittori, a Georgetown University professor who studies the arms trade.

A State Department spokesman declined to comment on whether such practices would violate U.S. laws. A spokesman for the Ukrainian defense ministry would not discuss the BMI deal.

Whether the deal goes forward or not, the BMI documents show that the Ukraine war presents an opportunity to charge big prices. The bullets that Mr. Zlatev planned to sell were 50 percent more expensive than those publicly listed by other vendors. His grenade launchers were selling for more than twice what is listed on a price list for United Nations peacekeeping forces. Experts say these increases typically help pay the middlemen — at the expense of a nation in the middle of a war.

The bullets, rockets, mortars and grenade launchers that Mr. Zlatev planned to ship were unlikely to meaningfully tilt the war in Ukraine's favor, said Mr. Yousif, the researcher. But the process of establishing middlemen, trade routes and agents with falsified documents could have a lasting impact.

Once the war is over, he said, Ukraine could turn into a hub for black-market weapons dealing: "The illicit market will emanate from this country for the next 30 years, as it did just after the Cold War."

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HEADLINE	10/05 OPEC move shows limits of US diplomacy
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/05/us/politics/opec-biden-saudi-arabia.html
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON — The move by OPEC on Wednesday to reduce oil production sharply undercuts President Biden's effort to avoid an increase in gas prices ahead of the midterm elections, while setting back his push to constrain the oil revenue Russia is using to pay for its war in Ukraine.</p> <p>It also exposes the failure of his fist-bump diplomacy over the summer with the crown prince of Saudi Arabia.</p> <p>In both optics and substance, the move by OPEC and its allied oil producers underscored the challenges the United States faces in managing its foreign and economic policy at a time when the global economy is at risk of recession, and energy politics has emerged as a key component of the conflict in Ukraine.</p> <p>The decision came during a meeting at OPEC's Vienna headquarters that was attended by Russia's deputy prime minister, who is under American sanctions. It followed a concerted but ultimately unsuccessful diplomatic effort by Washington to halt the oil production cut, a signal that Mr. Biden's influence over his Gulf allies was far less than he had hoped.</p> <p>And it demonstrated anew that, even in an era in which oil should be diminishing in importance as a source of energy, OPEC Plus acts in its own self-interests. In this case, sustaining the price per barrel has proved far more important to its members than making Russia pay a price for invading Ukraine.</p> <p>The meeting of the OPEC Plus energy cartel, led by Saudi Arabia and Russia, brought together an array of foreign and economic issues that affect everything from domestic politics in the United States to the war in Ukraine.</p>

For days, the White House sought to prevent the cut of two million barrels a day. It called on some of its closest Arab allies — starting with Saudi Arabia, where [Mr. Biden visited in July](#), and met with the crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, over the objections of human rights organizations and even some of his own advisers.

He took the risk, officials said at the time, to address a variety of national security concerns — but mostly to increase the supply of oil — even if it meant withstanding the critique that he was partaking in the rehabilitation of Prince Mohammed, who the C.I.A. concluded approved the assassination of the Washington Post journalist [Jamal Khashoggi](#) in 2018. During his campaign for the presidency, [Mr. Biden had called Saudi Arabia a “pariah.”](#)

The quiet understanding emerging from the trip was that Saudi Arabia would increase its production by about 750,000 barrels a day, and that the United Arab Emirates would follow suit with an additional 500,000, pushing down gas prices and worsening President Vladimir V. Putin’s ability to fund a war that was stretching much longer — and with much higher casualties — than Mr. Biden had expected.

But the production increases were fleeting. While Saudi Arabia boosted production significantly in July and August, it backed away from their promise to sustain those levels over the rest of 2022. Its leaders, and all of OPEC, worried that the specter of global recession was driving prices down, from \$120 a barrel over the summer to below \$80. Below that level, they fear, budgets have to be cut and social stability is threatened. So the Saudis decided they had to act.

The production cut announced Wednesday will reduce global daily production by about 2 percent, though some of that is a phantom reduction because the group’s members were already underproducing from their own goals. But its effect on prices may be greater, upward of 15 to 30 cents a gallon at the pump, experts estimated.

And for Mr. Biden, with midterm elections only a month away, the timing could not be worse.

But beyond the inflationary and political effect, the decision shatters any sense that the Arab allies were signed up to the cause of making Russia, also a member of the OPEC Plus group that met in Vienna, pay a price.

That should not have been a surprise. Iran is a member of the group, and it has grown closer to Russia in recent months, even selling it drones to prosecute the war in Ukraine.

And among those in attendance at the conference was Russia’s deputy prime minister, Alexander Novak, who is under U.S. sanctions for contributing to Russia’s aggression in Ukraine.

Mr. Novak is playing a central role in cooperating with other oil-producing countries — and seeking ways out of the effort by the United States and Europe to cap the price paid to Russia for its oil exports. At the news conference after the meeting in Vienna, he was conspicuously absent.

The effort to cap prices for Russian oil is now in jeopardy. The OPEC Plus decision helps Russia reap higher prices to offset the steep discounts it has been forced to give China and others, in return for their willingness to ignore the effort to isolate the country. In essence, the production cut will raise revenue for all the OPEC Plus members, Russia and Iran included.

In a statement from Jake Sullivan, the national security adviser, and Brian Deese, who heads the National Economic Council, the White House said Mr. Biden was “disappointed by the shortsighted decision by OPEC Plus to cut production quotas while the global economy is dealing with the continued negative impact of Putin’s invasion of Ukraine.” They said he would “consult Congress on additional tools and authorities to reduce OPEC’s control over energy prices.”

For their part, the Saudis were unapologetic.

“We would rather be pre-emptive than sorry,” Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, the Saudi oil minister, told reporters about the effort to bolster prices. He said nothing about the quiet agreements with Washington in July.

The degree of anger and surprise at the White House was obvious: On Tuesday the press secretary, Karine Jean-Pierre, told reporters “we’re not considering new releases” from the nation’s Strategic Petroleum Reserve beyond what Mr. Biden had announced previously. On Wednesday morning, not 24 hours later, with the OPEC cut looming, a White House statement said “the president will continue to direct” new releases from the petroleum reserve “as appropriate to protect American consumers and promote energy security.”

“It’s clear that OPEC Plus is aligning with Russia with today’s announcement,” Ms. Jean-Pierre said Wednesday.

Officials did not say that Mr. Biden regretted the fist bump with Prince Mohammed, which represented his decision to move on from his stated goal of making Saudi Arabia pay a price for the grisly killing and dismemberment of Mr. Khashoggi. His discomfort during the trip was palpable — Mr. Biden never mentioned the dissident and former Washington Post columnist by name when he appeared with Prince Mohammed, and the prince remained silent when a reporter asked if he owed an apology to the Khashoggi family. (Mr. Biden later told reporter the murder was “outrageous” and said he confronted the prince privately, and “I made my view crystal clear.”)

Officials said at the time they had made major progress in ending the war in Yemen, which the Saudis had helped prosecute, and moved incrementally toward eventual Saudi recognition of Israel. Yet the Saudi decision to support the oil output cut by OPEC and its allies, and ignore the pressure from the United States, marked yet another step in the strategic distancing between the two historic partners.

If there is any lesson from Mr. Biden’s bitter experience, it is that the days are gone when American presidents could request favors from their Saudi allies and expect them to be carried out merely for the good of the relationship, or to ensure the continued American commitment to protecting the kingdom from foreign attacks.

Prince Mohammed has deliberately distanced himself from Washington, cultivating broader international relationships, notably with China and Russia. He has also made it clear that he does not view Saudi Arabia as a junior partner to the United States and that he is willing to shrug off any demands that he considers contrary to Saudi interests.

Since the start of the Biden administration, this dynamic has played itself out in the interactions between the crown prince and Mr. Biden. But it was never clearer than in recent months, when Mr. Biden and his aides argued that the time had come to reset the relationship. That’s what the fist bump symbolized. And the apparent Saudi agreement to increase oil output to help bring down global prices was part of the quid pro quo.

Wednesday’s cuts showed that the effects of that reset had been short-lived, or that the Saudis did not consider the benefits of helping the United States after Mr. Biden’s visit enough to continue the favor.

Some analysts of Gulf politics saw the move as a direct strike at Mr. Biden.

“It is definitely political. It has nothing to do with money,” said Cinzia Bianco, a Gulf research fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations.

The Saudis, she said, had been disappointed by what they had received from the United States after Mr. Biden’s visit to the kingdom.

“So whenever it made political sense to backtrack and double down on a different strategy, they did,” she said.

Saudi analysts dismiss that characterization, echoing statements by officials from OPEC countries that the cuts were made for purely technical reasons.

“It is certainly not a hostile, anti-Biden act,” said Ali Shihabi, a Saudi analyst. “It has nothing to do with Biden. It is to keep the price in an acceptable band.”

Mr. Shihabi said that oil was so fundamental to the Saudi economy and to Prince Mohammed’s plans that ensuring that the commodity remained lucrative trumped other concerns.

“They are just trying to preserve their economic lifeline,” he said. “This is the lifeline in the kingdom, and everything depends on it in the kingdom.”

Other oil market watchers saw the new cuts as reflecting how global oil markets had been roiled in recent years, including by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and what appears to be an impending global recession.

Saudi Arabia has not criticized Russia’s invasion. And efforts by European countries to cut off Russian oil and gas to suck funds from Mr. Putin’s war machine have sent much of that oil to Asia, while the Europeans pursue other markets.

In the midst of that turmoil, the Saudis want to show that oil still matters and that they can drive the market.

“It is certainly a Saudi power move,” said Karen Young, a senior research scholar at the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University. “They are establishing that they have the ability to make this market.”

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HEADLINE	10/05 OPEC, Russia to raise prices big supply cut
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/05/business/opec-russia-oil-output.html?action=click&module=RelatedLinks&pgtype=Article
GIST	<p>Saudi Arabia and Russia, acting as leaders of the OPEC Plus energy cartel, agreed on Wednesday to their first large production cut in more than two years in a bid to raise prices, countering efforts by the United States and Europe to choke off the enormous revenue that Moscow reaps from the sale of crude.</p> <p>President Biden and European leaders have urged more oil production to ease gasoline prices and punish Moscow for its aggression in Ukraine. Vladimir V. Putin, the Russian president, has been accused of using energy as a weapon against countries opposing its invasion of Ukraine, and the optics of the decision could not be missed.</p> <p>The White House was not happy. “The president is disappointed by the shortsighted decision by OPEC Plus to cut production quotas while the global economy is dealing with the continued negative impact of Putin’s invasion of Ukraine,” Brian Deese, the director of the National Economic Council, and Jake Sullivan, the national security adviser, said in a statement.</p> <p>The cut of two million barrels a day represents about 2 percent of global oil production.</p> <p>By reducing output, OPEC Plus was also seeking to make a statement to energy markets about the group’s cohesion during the Ukraine war and its willingness to act quickly to defend prices, analysts say.</p> <p>At a news conference after the meeting, the Saudi energy minister, Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, said OPEC Plus was acting amid signs of a downturn in the world economy that might cause demand for oil to weaken and prices to fall.</p>

“We would rather be pre-emptive than be sorry,” he said.

The move appeared to have the desired result: The price of Brent crude, the international benchmark, which had slumped during the summer, rose more than 1.5 percent after the meeting, extending the gains recorded in recent days and bringing prices back to levels last seen in mid-September. The average price of gasoline in the United States [recently began to rise again](#), tracking the price of oil.

In response to the OPEC Plus announcement, Biden administration officials said the president would order the Energy Department to release 10 million additional barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in November. Earlier this week, the administration said it had no plans to extend a six-month effort to release one million barrels a day, which was scheduled to finish at the end of this month.

Hours before the OPEC Plus meeting, the European Union [pushed ahead with an ambitious plan](#) promoted by the Biden administration to cap the price of Russian oil, in coordination with Group of 7 nations and others.

The European Union cap is intended to set the price of Russian oil lower than where it is today but still above the cost of producing it. The U.S. Treasury Department estimates that the program could deprive the Kremlin of tens of billions of dollars annually. But some analysts say the cap would make the [logistics of the oil trade more difficult](#), driving prices higher. And it relies on the participation of non-E.U. nations that are still buying Russian oil.

In China, one of the biggest consumers of Russian oil this year, the foreign ministry has criticized the concept, warning last month that oil is too important to the global economy to be subject to the planned price controls.

“Oil is a global commodity — ensuring global energy supply security is vitally important,” Mao Ning, a foreign ministry spokeswoman, said on Sept. 5.

And the European Union proposal, aimed at pushing down prices, would seem to compete against OPEC Plus’s action to seek to raise oil prices.

But there is uncertainty about how deep the cut in oil production will go. Because of a lack of investment, most members of OPEC Plus regularly fall short of their production quotas and will not need to trim production much if at all. Richard Bronze, the head of geopolitics at Energy Aspects, a research firm, estimates that the actual cut will be only about one million barrels a day.

And the weakening global economy could [undermine the Russian and Saudi-led effort](#) to drive up prices. As economic growth slows, demand for oil would slacken.

Wednesday’s meeting was in person, at the headquarters of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries in Vienna, for the first time since March 2020 — a sign of the significance of the announcement. Among those attending was Russia’s deputy prime minister, Alexander Novak, who has played a key role in fostering cooperation with other major oil-producing countries.

The presence of Mr. Novak, who is subject to U.S. sanctions, could come as an embarrassment to officials in Europe when their citizens face what could be a tough winter because of higher energy prices linked to Russia’s war in Ukraine.

The production cut by OPEC Plus is a major turnabout in the approach of the 23-member group. After a deep reduction in output in the early days of the pandemic, the group gradually restored production over the next two years. Recently, though, Prince Abdulaziz, who chairs OPEC Plus with Mr. Novak, began to shift the group’s direction as prices came under pressure.

Last month, the group signaled concerns about the markets with a nominal cut of 100,000 barrels a day. When markets shrugged off that move and oil prices slipped below \$80 a barrel for West Texas Intermediate, the American benchmark, the Saudis appear to have decided that a much bolder signal was required.

Analysts said the increasing intervention in the markets by Washington and the European Union, such as the move to set a price cap for Russian oil, might be pushing OPEC Plus into more aggressive moves. Russia wants a higher price to offset the steep discounts it has had to give to sell its oil.

Some oil producers may see the price cap as a precedent that “might be an attempt to drive down prices more generally,” Mr. Bronze said. Such worries may explain why OPEC Plus “is willing to take such a big step and one that will be so unpopular in Washington,” he added.

At the news conference, Prince Abdulaziz denied any collusion with Russia, portraying OPEC Plus as a “band of brothers” interested only in preserving the stability of markets. “Where is the act of belligerence?” he asked.

At one point he instructed an assistant to display a chart showing that crude oil has edged up in price only by a single-digit percentage since January, before Russia invaded Ukraine, while the prices of other energy sources, like natural gas in Europe and coal, have soared.

The group also agreed to extend for one year the agreement that created OPEC Plus, a combination of OPEC with Russia and its allies. The alliance, which started in 2016, had been scheduled to expire in December.

In the [push for higher oil prices](#), the Kremlin may be using OPEC’s de facto leader, Saudi Arabia, whose leaders want future cooperation from Moscow on energy matters, to make it more costly for the West to take measures against Russia.

“To the extent that prices rise, it will make it that much more challenging for Europe to proceed with its sanctions on Russian oil in December,” said Bhushan Bahree, an executive director of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

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HEADLINE	10/06 Final days, death of China’s heroic doctor
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/06/world/asia/covid-china-doctor-li-wenliang.html
GIST	<p>In early 2020, in the Chinese city of Wuhan, Dr. Li Wenliang lay in a hospital bed with a debilitating fever. He was no ordinary patient, and even then — before Covid had its name — he feared that this was no ordinary ailment.</p> <p>Dr. Li was widely regarded in China as a heroic truth-teller. He had been punished by the authorities for trying to warn others about the virus, and then, in a terrible turn, had become severely sickened by it. Weeks later, he would become China’s most famous fatality of the emerging pandemic. He was 34.</p> <p>His death set off an outpouring of grief and anger on a scale and intensity rarely seen in China. More than two years later, Dr. Li remains a galvanizing figure, a symbol of frustration with the government’s suppression of independent voices. His profile on the Chinese social media site, Weibo, regularly receives hundreds of comments a week, and has become a place where people pay tribute and share their personal stories.</p> <p>A government investigation into the circumstances around Dr. Li’s death concluded in a report that the Wuhan Central Hospital had spared no effort to try to save him. But a more complete picture of his medical care and his treatment by the authorities has remained elusive.</p>

The New York Times's Visual Investigations team has now filled in some of these gaps with an exclusive interview with one of Dr. Li's colleagues. He provided a firsthand account of Dr. Li's final hours, describing the resuscitation measures that were used and discussed. We are referring to him only as Dr. B because he is afraid of reprisals from the Chinese government. The Times talked to Dr. B via video, and verified his identity with public information.

The Times also obtained and examined internal memos from Wuhan Central Hospital and Dr. Li's medical records, some of which backed up Dr. B's account. The medical records have been verified by experts and contain details that match publicly available information. Eight U.S.-based Chinese medical experts, who have experience treating Covid patients or have practiced in Chinese hospitals, reviewed the medical records for The Times.

We found no evidence his medical care was compromised. But these documents, along with Dr. B's account and experts' analysis, reveal important new details about his illness and treatment.

Taken together they show how Dr. Li spent his last 39 days going up against a deadly virus — and navigating government attempts to censor him.

An Acute Illness

In early 2020, the virus was spreading rapidly in Wuhan, the city in China where the pandemic first took hold. Dr. Li checked into the hospital on Jan. 12 with a fever, a lung infection and other symptoms.

According to several of the doctors who reviewed his medical records for The Times, by the third day, Dr. Li was seriously ill and required oxygen support.

“He was infected with an early variant of the virus, so the illness started acutely, its course was life threatening and it developed very fast,” said Dr. Wu Yuanfei, a virologist at UMass Chan Medical School in Worcester, Massachusetts.

The experts said that based on the records, the treatment Dr. Li received, in general, followed the norms of that time for managing the symptoms of coronavirus patients.

A little over a week into Dr. Li's hospital stay, his doctors wrote that he was struggling mentally and diagnosed him as being in a depressive state, a detail that has not been reported. The record did not attribute his emotional condition to any specific factors, but noted that Dr. Li had lost his appetite and couldn't sleep at night.

He was kept in an isolation ward, allowed to communicate with his family only by video chat. He had just weeks earlier been disciplined by the police for warning friends in a private group on WeChat, a Chinese social media service, about the new virus that was spreading through the city. His employer, Wuhan Central Hospital where he worked as an eye doctor, had made him write a letter of apology, the content of which was obtained by The Times.

Despite the official warnings, on Jan. 27, 2020, Dr. Li gave [an anonymous interview](#) to a prominent Chinese newspaper, describing how he had been reprimanded for trying to raise the alarm. Eventually, he revealed his identity on social media, and instantly became a folk hero. From his hospital bed, he [took more interviews](#) and said he hoped to recover soon to join medical workers fighting the outbreak.

Deterioration and Attempts at Resuscitation

But on Feb. 5, Dr. Li's condition deteriorated severely — his pneumonia grew worse, his breathing became extremely labored.

That afternoon, Dr. Li's doctors ordered several tests of his lungs and heart, his medical records show. According to Dr. Yuan Jin, a pulmonary and critical care doctor at Good Samaritan Medical Center in Brockton, Massachusetts, these exams suggest that Li Wenliang's medical team was responding to a worsened condition.

By the morning of Feb. 6, doctors wrote in the progress notes that Dr. Li was at risk of multiple organ failure. Several physicians we spoke to said that Dr. Li's condition was so serious that his medical team should have at this point, or before it, considered intubating him and placed him on a ventilator — a higher level of oxygen support.

The records indicate that Dr. Li had earlier been given oxygen through a nasal tube and then an additional oxygen mask. His medical team also tried to use a noninvasive ventilator on Jan. 19, but wrote that “the patient could not tolerate.”

It is unclear why Dr. Li was not intubated. Some doctors are more reluctant to intubate young patients; sometimes the patients themselves refuse it. To this day, there is [no consensus](#) on when invasive ventilators should be used on Covid-19 patients.

On Feb. 6, Dr. Li went into cardiac arrest at around 7:20 p.m. Though his daily progress note did not explicitly say that his heart stopped, it recorded that the medical team started performing CPR — a procedure that is applied in such an emergency. They intubated him at that point, a common practice during resuscitation. The note said his pupils were not responding to light.

According to the medical records, doctors tried to revive Dr. Li for over seven and a half hours, but his heart never restarted.

The government investigation said doctors placed Dr. Li on extracorporeal membrane oxygenation. Also known as [ECMO](#), it is a last resort, invasive treatment involving a machine that siphons blood out of the patient, runs it through an oxygenator and pumps it back into the body.

According to Dr. B, who arrived at Dr. Li's intensive care ward around 9 p.m., about two hours after Dr. Li entered cardiac arrest, the hospital's leadership pushed the medical team to use ECMO because it wanted to show the public that no effort had been spared.

But several doctors in the room argued that by that point it was too late for it to have been of any use, an assessment that six physicians we talked to agreed with. Dr. B also said putting Dr. Li on ECMO, given its invasive nature, would have been an “insult to his body.”

Dr. B left the room around midnight. He said ECMO had not been used because an instrument to perform the procedure was not available. It is unclear whether it was ultimately used after he left.

There is also no indication in the doctors' orders from that night that the procedure was ever administered.

But for some reason, the daily progress notes say ECMO was used. It was the only discrepancy of this kind found in the medical records.

The Death of Dr. Li

That night, conflicting messages about Dr. Li's condition — some released by state media outlets, then deleted — generated confusion. At 10:40 p.m., a state-run publication, Life Times, said that he had died at 9:30 p.m.

It was nearly 4 a.m. the next morning, Feb. 7, when the hospital finally announced Dr. Li's death. It said he died at 2:58 a.m. The government's investigation cited an electrocardiography performed at this time that showed he had flatlined.

Our investigation found that among the records was an echocardiogram report around 9:10 p.m. the previous evening that showed that his heart had stopped beating.

“I think Dr. Li Wenliang had already died by the time I saw him around 9 p.m. on Feb. 6,” Dr. B said. He added: “The normal process at this point would have been to pronounce him dead.”

“They dragged their feet for so long over the announcement. It’s like the hospital really did not treat us as human beings,” he said. For Dr. B, going public with his version of events was an attempt to get his story out and honor Dr. Li’s legacy.

The Times made multiple attempts to contact Dr. Li’s medical team, but none agreed to answer questions. The press office of Wuhan Central Hospital told The Times that it was not accepting interviews from international media outlets. China’s National Supervisory Commission, the country’s top disciplinary body investigating Dr. Li’s death, did not respond to requests for comment. The Chinese Embassy in Washington, D.C. did not respond to requests for comment.

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HEADLINE	10/05 Frozen war takes shape in Ukraine
SOURCE	https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2022/oct/5/winter-looms-frozen-war-takes-shape-ukraine/
GIST	<p>Russian President Vladimir Putin signed papers Wednesday officially “annexing” four Ukrainian provinces into Russia even as his forces faced more losses on the ground, setting the stage for what U.S. officials believe will be a long, bloody winter with both sides shooting it out on a frozen battlefield.</p> <p>Mr. Putin’s claimed annexation — roundly rejected by Ukraine, the U.S. and virtually every other government on the planet — signals that the Kremlin has no intention of abandoning its territorial claims in Ukraine despite major defeats over the past two weeks by a well-coordinated, crushing Ukrainian counteroffensive.</p> <p>Ukrainian troops scored fresh gains in that counterattack Wednesday. They reportedly pushed Russian troops out of more villages in southern and eastern Ukraine, undercutting Moscow’s claims that the front lines have “stabilized.”</p> <p>Pentagon officials conceded this week that Kyiv’s highly effective counteroffensive campaign is about to become much more difficult as troops contend with plummeting temperatures, frigid conditions and muddy or even frozen terrain. That cold reality seems to be setting the stage for what military strategists describe as a literal and figurative “frozen conflict,” with neither side able to notch any major victories until the increasingly harsh conditions subside.</p> <p>U.S. officials say recent military aid packages to Ukraine include cold-weather gear such as gloves and uniforms designed for low temperatures. Still, they acknowledge the coming months will be especially difficult for Ukraine, whose momentum could slow or perhaps stop entirely.</p> <p>“Weather plays a big factor in any war. And here, what we would anticipate is ... as the weather changes, maneuver will be much more challenging.” Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Laura K. Cooper told reporters at the Pentagon this week. “You get really muddy ground. It ... increases just the challenge to the average fighter, the average soldier, in terms of the impact of the weather on the conditions.”</p> <p>Sen. Christopher Murphy, Connecticut Democrat and member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, told the Financial Times this week that “the fighting season is drawing short. The Ukrainians have gained the upper hand and need to continue to press their advantage.”</p> <p>Ukrainian officials say Russia is prepared to use the cold weather to its advantage, just as it did last month by targeting Ukrainian infrastructure in numerous regions.</p> <p>“The most likely indication of Moscow’s immediate intentions came earlier in September when Russian forces launched a series of targeted attacks against Ukraine’s civilian infrastructure. These missile strikes left much of northern and eastern Ukraine temporarily without electricity while also causing flooding in the south of the country,” said Kira Rudik, a member of the Ukrainian parliament and vice president of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe political party.</p>

“Ukrainians are well aware of the threat posed by large-scale attacks on the country’s civilian infrastructure and are preparing accordingly,” she wrote in an analysis this week posted on the Atlantic Council’s website. “With the winter season fast approaching, [Ukraine] faces the prospect of entire regions suffering power blackouts and heating failures during periods of intense cold weather. The consequences for the civilian population could be catastrophic.”

Officials said there was urgency for Ukrainian forces to recapture territory in the south before winter because the ground has not frozen for the past three years, meaning the terrain will soon become muddy.

Those conditions will make it difficult for both sides to maneuver, forcing trucks and heavy artillery to stay on main roads, where they will be more exposed. The mud also hands an advantage to dug-in Russian troops defending territory they already occupy because they do not have to move across land, officials and analysts said.

Losing ground

Beyond its targeting of Ukrainian infrastructure, Russia could find winter to be a blessing in other arenas. Ukraine’s ability to move troops, vehicles and equipment across the battlefield could be severely diminished, potentially giving Russian troops time to reinforce their defensive front lines in the disputed Donbas region. The cold months will strain the resources of Western European countries supporting Ukraine as they struggle to adjust to a cutoff of Russian oil and natural gas.

A lengthy pause in fighting also gives Russian forces more time to train, equip and deploy the 130,000 reservists Mr. Putin ordered to report last week, although it would also give Kyiv time to secure more arms and training from the U.S. and its Western allies.

A breather couldn’t come at a better time for Moscow.

Even as Mr. Putin formally announced the annexation of the Donetsk, Kherson, Zaporizhzhia and Luhansk provinces, his forces lost more ground in those territories over the past several days. Ukrainians moved closer Wednesday to the strategically vital city of Kherson in the country’s southeast. At least seven outlying villages in Kherson province have been recaptured, local officials said, putting Ukrainian forces just 60 miles from Kherson city.

Ukrainian forces reportedly pushed the Russians out of the city of Snihurivka, north of Kherson. Ukrainian military officials also said they had retaken several key villages in the Donetsk province, underscoring how the counteroffensive has broken through Russian lines on multiple fronts in a matter of weeks.

Foreign intelligence analysts say the gains have given Ukraine an ability to hit Russian supply lines, which will be especially vital in the winter.

“Ukrainian formations have advanced up to [12 miles] beyond the [Oskil] River into Russia’s defensive zone towards the supply node of the town of Svatove,” the British Ministry of Defense said Wednesday in a Twitter post. “It is highly likely that Ukraine can now strike the key Svatove-Kremina road with most of its artillery systems, further straining Russia’s ability to resupply its units in the east.”

Those developments seem to have had little impact on Mr. Putin, who pressed ahead with the claimed annexation of Ukrainian territory. In a video call with Russian teachers, the Russian leader said Moscow will treat all Ukrainians with respect, but he added a warning that his troops will “brush off” everything that keeps them from achieving their goals.

“We have 3 million Russian citizens of Ukrainian origin. We do not make any distinctions and are not going to make any distinctions between Russians and Ukrainians, but, while proceeding along our own constructive way, without any doubt, we will brush off everything that prevents us from moving forward,” he said, according to the state-run Tass news agency.

	Mr. Putin also signed a decree claiming Russian control over Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia power plant, the largest nuclear facility in Europe. Russian troops have been in control of the plant since the early days of the war, but Mr. Putin's claim will be rejected by Kyiv, the U.S. and its allies.
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HEADLINE	10/05 Gas prices climb over \$.30 in a week
SOURCE	https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/gas-prices-continue-climb-washington/FE33Z7GH4RHVDLBKUYBF63Y7DA/
GIST	<p>Gas prices in western Washington are rising at an alarming rate, and all indications are they will continue to climb.</p> <p>On Wednesday, the oil-producing countries that comprise OPEC decided to cut production to increase prices even more.</p> <p>On Tuesday, AAA reported gas was at \$5.32 a gallon in Washington, a 30-cent hike from a week ago when prices were just over \$5 a gallon on average.</p> <p>AAA reported that a gallon of regular gas in the Seattle, Bellevue, and Everett areas was at \$5.52, a 27-cent rise from last week.</p> <p>In Tacoma, drivers can expect to pay \$5.47 and in Olympia, it was only a cent cheaper, both up by at least 35 cents from last week.</p> <p>While the U.S. doesn't get its oil from OPEC, it certainly does affect worldwide prices.</p> <p>Another factor impacting local gas prices is that Washington refineries are temporarily at reduced capacity for maintenance.</p> <p>In Auburn, KIRO 7's Graham Johnson found drivers once again looking at their fill-up totals with astonishment.</p> <p>One driver said she paid \$74.82 for 12 gallons and another person filling up her tank said she got "14 gallons for \$70. Yeah, pretty bad."</p> <p>Other examples of high gas prices included a person who pumped 1.2 gallons for just over \$7, someone who got 16 gallons for \$93, and another who paid \$156 for 26 gallons. The high prices hurt.</p> <p>When Johnson asked Seattle University economist Vladimir Dashkeev why prices were going up, he said global oil supply had dwindled due to COVID-19-era shortages and fewer Russian oil exports after its invasion of Ukraine.</p> <p>"The remaining energy is becoming more scarce and therefore prices are rising," Dashkeev said.</p> <p>And now the OPEC cartel is cutting production even more.</p> <p>"This is designed to specifically increase their revenues and the price of energy," Dashkeev said.</p> <p>Dashkeev said OPEC's move could affect the global oil marketplace for months.</p> <p>The local factor impacting gas prices involves Washington oil refineries' maintenance, where the switch is made to winter blends. AAA said refineries delayed summertime maintenance so as not to further raise prices during the summer driving season and are now catching up on work they can no longer put off.</p> <p>The latest gas price spike could be a problem for Democrats as the midterm election rapidly approaches.</p> <p>President Joe Biden had been celebrating the recent drop in gas prices but now they're rising again.</p>

HEADLINE	10/05 King Co. warns of fall, winter Covid surge
SOURCE	https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/experts-warn-covid-surge-say-few-people-have-gotten-updated-booster/ICPMWLZKFJCCTEK7QJP47TOZLU/
GIST	<p>SEATTLE — As October begins, health experts are warning about a COVID-19 surge this fall and winter.</p> <p>King County Health Officer Dr. Jeff Duchin said a surge is likely, but it is not known how severe it will be.</p> <p>Duchin is urging people to get the new booster shot. Currently, fewer than 10% of eligible people have done so.</p> <p>If you ask someone about COVID-19 these days, you may hear a lack of concern.</p> <p>“I feel like it’s going away,” one person told reporter Graham Johnson.</p> <p>And what about getting the updated omicron booster shots?</p> <p>“I don’t know. I’ve had both of the COVID shots. I haven’t really thought about it, actually,” another person said.</p> <p>A Kaiser Family Foundation survey found that two-thirds of American adults are not planning to get the updated booster shot soon.</p> <p>Duchin said he hopes that changes.</p> <p>“This is something that can make a fall and winter surge much worse if they haven’t received a booster,” said Duchin.</p> <p>There have been surges of COVID-19 cases before when people begin to head indoors during cooler weather.</p> <p>“It’s very likely we’re going to see a surge in the fall and the winter, but we really can’t predict how severe it will be,” said Duchin.</p> <p>The University of Washington’s Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation projects a slow rise in local cases in the coming months.</p> <p>But researcher Theo Voss said with so many cases now going unreported because of home tests, predictions are difficult to make.</p> <p>“That work has become much, much harder. What we do know is that virtually everyone has been in contact with the virus, even people who have been vaccinated,” said Voss.</p> <p>People with the virus are still being hospitalized, but Voss said COVID-19 is becoming more manageable.</p> <p>“So, there’s a lot of good news but there are remaining worries and it’s certainly not a problem that is over,” said Voss.</p> <p>About 12% of older adults in King County have had the new booster shots so far.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/05 Postal Service holiday shipping deadlines
SOURCE	https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/usps-releases-important-shipping-deadlines-holiday-season/QB4ERZ4NSVGNFHV62JN2MB2DYM/
GIST	<p>The United States Postal Service is already eyeing the holiday season as it just released all the important shipping deadlines to make sure gifts arrive on time.</p> <p>For delivery expected by Dec. 25 to domestic addresses and Air/Army Post Office/Fleet Post Office/Diplomatic Post Office (APO/FPO/DPO) addresses, the postal service recommends the following date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nov. 5 — APO/FPO/DPO (all ZIP Codes) USPS Retail Ground service • Dec. 9 — APO/FPO/DPO (all ZIP Codes) Priority Mail and First-Class Mail • Dec. 16 — APO/FPO/DPO (except ZIP Code 093) USPS Priority Mail Express Military service • Dec. 17 — USPS Retail Ground service • Dec. 17 — First-Class Mail service (including greeting cards) • Dec. 17 — First-Class packages (up to 15.99 ounces) • Dec. 19 — Priority Mail service • Dec. 23 — Priority Mail Express* service <p>The highlights, regular ground service, as well as first class mail, will need to be in by the 17th.</p> <p>Priority mail express is the only service that can make it within two days.</p> <p>The mail service did make some price adjustments for the holiday, so look out for those.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/05 Green River encampment still an issue
SOURCE	https://komonews.com/news/local/green-river-encampment-is-still-an-issue-kent-mayor-dana-ralph-says-king-county-auburn-king-county-council-reagan-dunn-king-county-regional-homeless-authority#
GIST	<p>The notorious Green River encampment in unincorporated King County continues to cause problems in surrounding neighborhoods, according to Kent mayor Dana Ralph.</p> <p>The camp between Auburn and Kent was cleared back in July, but Ralph says the county has since let campers return.</p> <p>“We are asking [county officials] every single week to please do something to address that because it has a significant impact,” Ralph explained. “They did come in and clean up that area back in July but then allowed everyone to move back in.”</p> <p>KOMO talked to two people who live in an apartment complex near part of the camp. They say they’ve heard gunshots, and that the camp is even a danger to drivers when some people wander into the road.</p> <p>They’d like to see the homeless there be connected with shelter and mental health services.</p> <p>In late June, King County Council Member Reagan Dunn proposed legislation to create a task force that would help clean up rural encampments like the Green River encampment and connect the people living there with services however the task force was never formed.</p> <p>The King County Regional Homeless Authority (KCRHA) said they are working with outreach teams, service providers, and King County Parks and Roads Departments to ensure that people have access to services. They said people outreach teams have spoken with don't know where they will go when another clean-up happens.</p> <p>According to KCRHA, the decision on when to do a clean-up is determined by the Roads Department.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/05 Settlement in Vancouver police shooting
SOURCE	https://www.q13fox.com/news/settlement-reached-in-fatal-police-shooting-lawsuit
GIST	<p>VANCOUVER, Wash. - The City Council in Vancouver, Washington, has approved a \$725,000 settlement in the police shooting of a man who was experiencing a mental health crisis in April 2020.</p> <p>William Abbe, 50, was shot and killed by three Vancouver police officers. The shooting was deemed lawful and justified by the Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the Columbian reported.</p> <p>Abbe's daughter filed a federal lawsuit in 2021 alleging wrongful death, negligence, assault and battery, and excessive force against the city of Vancouver and the officers.</p> <p>According to the lawsuit filed by Kara Brandon, Abbe had an altercation with another man in the street and police were called.</p> <p>The officers were talking with Abbe when he started walking toward a sergeant, who responded by leveling his handgun toward Abbe's chest. Abbe stopped and was standing still when the sergeant fired a shot to his chest, the lawsuit said.</p> <p>Abbe turned and fell to the ground, the sergeant shot him in the back, the lawsuit said. As he was on the ground, another officer fired two shots, the lawsuit said. The officers fired five rounds.</p> <p>Lawyers for the officers said a witness said Abbe continued to yell at the officers, threw rocks at them and held two metal pipes when the shooting occurred.</p> <p>The federal judge ordered the case dismissed on Tuesday after the two sides agreed to settle.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/05 Kirkland ranked 3rd best-place to live in US
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/kirkland-ranked-third-best-place-to-live-in-u-s-by-money-magazine/
GIST	<p>Kirkland is the third-best place to live in the U.S., according to Money magazine's most recent ranking. The personal finance magazine ranks locations by nine factors including cost of living, economic opportunity, education, diversity, the local housing market and quality of life.</p> <p>The cities that clinched the No. 1 and No. 2 spots? Atlanta and Tempe, Arizona, respectively. Raleigh, North Carolina; Rogers Park (Chicago), Illinois; and Columbia, Maryland, were just below Kirkland on the list of 50 cities.</p> <p>"It's an honor that Kirkland has been recognized nationally for something that we all know to be true: Kirkland is such an amazing place to live," Deputy Mayor Jay Arnold said in a news release. "Thank you to our wonderful residents and businesses who together contribute to Kirkland's vibrant and belonging community."</p> <p>This year, the magazine acknowledged its rankings have tended to feature "quaint, affordable — and unintentionally yet overwhelmingly white" cities in the past and said they tried to prioritize racial and religious diversity more highly in the ranking.</p> <p>Money magazine described Kirkland as a beautiful Seattle suburb, with Evergreen Health in its backyard as well as other companies close by in Redmond.</p> <p>Job openings in Kirkland are expected to grow by more than 10% in the next few years, according to Money. The city, on the eastern shore of Lake Washington, has attracted startups and Google in April opened the next phase of its Kirkland office space.</p>

	<p>However, those looking to move to Kirkland can expect steep housing costs. According to the magazine, the average one-bedroom rental costs close to \$2,000 and the median home sale price has hit \$1 million. The median household income is \$130,000, which is also above average.</p> <p>Kirkland has a pedestrian-friendly downtown and a “vast collection of parks,” featuring paved lakefront paths and wooded forestlands, Money magazine writes.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/05 Pierce Co. confronts spike in traffic deaths
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/transportation/following-dramatic-jump-in-traffic-deaths-pierce-county-seeks-change/
GIST	<p>PARKLAND, Pierce County — Even as traffic deaths jump across Washington, Pierce County stands out.</p> <p>Among the state’s counties, the rise in road fatalities in Pierce outpaced nearly all of them. Between 2020 and 2021, when Washington saw a 16% increase in deaths on the road, Pierce saw a 34% spike, according to the Washington Traffic Safety Commission.</p> <p>Last year’s toll of 98 deaths in Pierce County was 75% higher than the 56 the county saw in 2017 and more than double 2012’s 42 deaths. By comparison, deaths in King County increased by a still troubling, but slower, 50% while Snohomish County’s remained flat in that same 10-year span. Pierce represented a disproportionate number of the state’s road deaths last year — 15% last year in a geographic area containing just 11% of Washington’s population.</p> <p>As the toll mounts, so too does pressure on the county to change course, pledging over the summer to eliminate traffic deaths by 2035.</p> <p>Amber Weilert’s 13-year-old son, Michael, had taken hundreds of bike rides near his Parkland home before a driver hit him at a crosswalk on Highway 7 in July, killing him at the scene on a road where death is common. Law enforcement is still investigating.</p> <p>As Weilert struggles with her grief, she’s come to view the world around her as one built for speed, not safety, seeing even the spaces created for people like Michael as more hazard than help.</p> <p>“I was happy when I saw crosswalks going in,” she said. “But I’ve learned that these crosswalks give a false sense of security because most of them don’t work. Michael’s didn’t work.”</p> <p>In August, the Pierce County Council set a goal of eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2035, a “Vision Zero” commitment also made by neighboring cities and counties. The specifics will take months to iron out, but will likely mean requiring comprehensive safety updates as part of every road or public works project. The vote was catalyzed by Michael’s death, but also reflects the torrent of fatalities on their roads in recent years.</p> <p>“I think that brought home just how absurd the design of some of our transportation facilities are,” Pierce County Councilmember Derek Young said of Michael’s death, “where someone can do every right thing and still end up being struck and killed by someone driving a vehicle.”</p> <p>The same theories that have arisen to explain the national rise in roadway fatalities apply to Pierce County: Empty roads because of COVID allowed for more speeding; car sizes have grown; alcohol use is up; enforcement is down.</p> <p>But it’s more than all those things, said Councilmember Ryan Mello. Roads once built to whisk drivers to lightly populated communities now run through dense corridors, which have grown with housing prices and the region’s population. Gone are the empty fields that may have once bordered four-lane highways, replaced instead by strip malls, housing and people.</p>

“As the urban unincorporated area has continued to densify, we’ve looked at ourselves and said, ‘Oh wow, there’s several hundred thousand people here in the urban unincorporated area,’” he said. “And gosh, we didn’t really plan very well.”

In identifying the county’s broader planning, or lack thereof, as the cause of the increase in deaths, Mello also identifies the complexity contained within the county’s “Vision Zero” declaration. If Mello’s diagnosis is accepted, achieving zero traffic deaths would mean a wholesale rethinking of Pierce County itself.

Mello knows this but said it’s worth taking the step regardless. “We can’t do everything in one day, even in one year and even in one decade,” he said.

Rural, then urban

Everything immediately to the west of Amber and David Weilert’s home feels like the country: The spacious yard gives way to a sparse collection of single-family homes backed by trees. The nearby road swoops past a wetland and only the occasional car passes. There are no lane markings.

For a boy who loved to ride his BMX bike, it was all welcoming enough.

“That’s why I had this, I guess naive now, thought that the roads were safe enough for him to ride on, because it had been safe every time before,” said Weilert.

Just blocks to the east is the second face of Parkland, one defined by Highway 7. A 10-minute walk from Weilert’s house, the country streets morph into tight, two-lane roads without sidewalks. Highway 7 itself has 5 lanes — two in each direction plus a median.

Michael and his friend were riding to the grocery store, on the other side of the busy stretch, which meant using a nearby crosswalk. It’s labeled, and a light near the signs with images of pedestrians should flash when a button is pushed. But the center light was broken, Weilert said transportation officials told her, apparently hit by a passing truck. The light remains broken today, although drivers often ignore signals anyway.

Weilert can’t bring herself to learn the details of exactly what happened. She knows the driver in the first northbound lane stopped, but the driver in the second did not. She’s only recently found strength enough to revisit the intersection and the memorial that now marks it, which was overflowing with cards, decorations and a bicycle painted white — a “ghost bike.”

“Every time we come here there’s flowers,” she said over the din of traffic. “We don’t even really replenish it.”

Deadly speed

Traffic deaths spiked the most in unincorporated Pierce County — nearly doubling from 2020 to 2021. Exactly half of all fatalities in the county between 2017 and 2021 were in unincorporated areas. The deadliest roads are well-known: highways 7, 512, 167, Interstate 5, all long, straight and wide, many of which cut through increasingly populated areas.

Laura Svancarek, advocacy manager for the Tacoma-based transportation organization Downtown: On the Go, sees the danger as connected to the larger forces of housing and displacement in the region. “As folks in Seattle come into Tacoma, people in Tacoma can no longer afford to stay there and they move out into the unincorporated county, into spaces that are more historically rural, or just on the cusp of suburban,” she said. “You think about State Route 7, that is a surface highway. There were never meant to be communities along that.”

Except for speed limit signs, the roads have few markers — trees, narrowed lanes — to signal to drivers to slow down. Sgt. Darren Moss of the Pierce County Sheriff’s Department said drivers’ speeds spiked in 2020, with the onset of COVID, and haven’t really let up.

“It seems like people still have lead feet,” he said. Of traffic deaths in Pierce County last year, 32% involved speeding, according to the Washington State Traffic Safety Commission.

In the wake of Michael’s death, Weilert found strength in pushing for change. That advocacy worked. Just over a month after Michael’s death, the Pierce County Council voted to make a plan for eliminating traffic deaths by 2035, joining the ranks of “Vision Zero” municipalities, which already includes Tacoma.

“We have to just fundamentally change the way we do business,” said Young. “And so that’s gonna take a little time. But, you know, the first step is the council saying, ‘We need to do this.’ ”

But among cities that have made similar commitments, the results so far have been discouraging. Los Angeles’ goal of eliminating traffic deaths by 2025 is further out of reach after a bad 2021, prompting questions as to [whether Vision Zero has failed there](#). Seattle, a Vision Zero city, has seen an increase in deaths — 30 last year and on pace for more this year — as have most places in the country, Vision Zero or not.

The sole “no” vote on the resolution, Councilmember Amy Cruver, cited some of these trends in explaining her opposition, saying she didn’t believe the price would be worth the benefit.

The key to Vision Zero, which is believed to have originated in Sweden in 1997, is a reshaping of roads so that when drivers make mistakes, as they inevitably do, the result is not death.

While European countries seem to take this to heart, American cities tend to focus more on the branding around Vision Zero than the substance, according to a 2021 [review of the policies](#) prepared for the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization. In Portland, the review’s authors found, “Its branding is strong, but proclamation of a campaign and branding have not led to positive results.”

“We probably do more talk than action,” acknowledge Carrie Wilhelme, senior transportation planner with Tacoma, which is putting the finishing touches on its Vision Zero action plan. “In this world we know the solutions, it’s just about making it happen. It’s that political will to redesign a street, to create a driver delay, to take away parking.”

Young said he believes Pierce can move in that direction. In fact, the changes would start now: Pierce is likely to abandon its plan for a highway expansion on Canyon Road to free up funds for safety.

On Weilert’s forearm is a fresh tattoo of a sunflower and a dragonfly, as well as the years her son was born and died. Michael had complimented the sunflowers Weilert had planted in their front yard. He told her she should grow a wall of them next year and let them take over the side garden with their yellow hue.

Shortly after his death, Weilert was standing outside, looking at those same plants when a dragonfly flew by her head, landed on a sunflower, and circled her once more. She watched its path and felt a connection to her son and a bit of comfort for a moment.

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HEADLINE	10/05 ‘Ghost cattle’ rancher sentenced 11yrs jail
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/central-washington-rancher-who-perpetrated-244-million-ghost-cattle-fraud-is-sentenced-to-11-years/
GIST	<p>The Central Washington rancher at the center of a nearly \$250 million fraud scheme involving cattle that didn’t exist was sentenced to 11 years in federal prison Tuesday.</p> <p>Cody Easterday, 51, pleaded guilty last year in a so-called “ghost cattle” scam that federal prosecutors called “one of the largest thefts in Washington history.”</p>

Easterday, who led a massive ranching firm, said a gambling addiction led him to forge invoices for roughly 265,000 cattle to Tyson Foods, and another unnamed company, in an effort to cover expenses from losses sustained trading in commodity futures. His legal team requested a sentence that included three years of probation, including one year of home confinement, but no jail time.

Prosecutors, meanwhile, asked U.S. District Court Judge Stanley A. Bastian to sentence Easterday to between a decade and 12 1/2 years in custody, citing the amount of the theft and that his admission of guilt came only after Tyson began investigating the missing cattle at the end of 2020.

Vanessa Waldref, U.S. Attorney for Eastern Washington, called the scheme “a massive, brazen and long-term fraud.”

“Here we really have a case where he’s gambling with the livelihood of his employees, the entirety of his multimillion-dollar ranching operation,” Waldref said Tuesday, after attending the sentencing hearing in Yakima. “This gambling is not going to the slots and having a problem at your own scale.”

Bastian sided with the government, handing down the 132-month sentence and ordering Easterday to repay \$244 million.

Easterday Ranches entered into agreements with Tyson to buy cattle and raise them to the proper weight for slaughter. Easterday would then bill Tyson for the costs incurred raising the cattle. The federal government accused Easterday of wire fraud because invoices for repayment that included the nonexistent cattle were sent by email across state lines, in a scheme that lasted from 2016 to 2020.

Easterday’s attorney, Carl Oreskovich, said Bastian’s sentence “just, frankly, took our breath away.”

“The family is devastated. We were expecting something different. It’s a big loss,” Oreskovich said. Two courtrooms were filled with supporters, and several community members submitted letters to Bastian on Easterday’s behalf, calling him an altruistic member of the community who helped employees, including migrant workers.

Easterday’s defense asked the judge to reduce his sentence because the scheme was “not sophisticated” and not used “to finance a lavish lifestyle.”

Prosecutors, on the other hand, argued that Easterday stole more than what he lost trading on the market and questioned whether the diagnosis of gambling addiction was sound.

Companies belonging to the Easterday family have been involved in bankruptcy proceedings prompted by the fraud investigation, and Cody Easterday’s sentencing hearing had been delayed five times to accommodate the resolution of the complicated bankruptcy. Easterday agreed to a restitution amount of \$244 million based on payments made to cover fraudulent invoices. The companies have provided close to \$66 million in restitution to Tyson and other creditors, according to court documents.

Waldref credited the Fraud Section of the Justice Department in Washington, D.C., for assisting on the case, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Brian Donovan for helping navigate the bankruptcy proceedings and pushing for restitution. The case was also handled locally by Assistant U.S. Attorney Russell Smoot.

“This is a pretty extraordinary example of how fraud has devastating impacts on our community,” Waldref said, referencing the bankruptcy and tying the fraud to the rising cost of food at supermarkets.

Oreskovich said the bankruptcy proceedings haven’t been finalized, though the company’s assets have been liquidated and the courts must decide who receives what in compensation.

Easterday will be allowed to report to prison on his own. The terms of the plea agreement do not permit him to appeal the sentence based on its length, Oreskovich said.

HEADLINE	10/05 First Lady weekend visit to Tacoma, Seattle
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/jill-biden-to-visit-tacoma-and-seattle-speak-at-patty-murray-fundraiser/
GIST	<p>First lady Jill Biden will visit Tacoma and Seattle later this week for official events and a political fundraiser for U.S. Sen. Patty Murray.</p> <p>After appearances in San Francisco, Biden is scheduled to arrive in Washington on Friday afternoon, landing at 3:15 p.m. at Boeing Field and heading to Bates Technical College in Tacoma to highlight workforce development programs, according to the White House.</p> <p>On Saturday, Biden will headline a noon fundraiser for Murray, who is seeking a sixth term this year against Republican challenger Tiffany Smiley.</p> <p>Then Biden is scheduled to participate in an official event celebrating children in military families and veteran caregivers at the Pacific Science Center in Seattle, according to the White House. She'll be joined at that event by Murray and Denis McDonough, the secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. None of the events are open to the public.</p> <p>Biden visited Washington last year, touring Joint Base Lewis-McChord and Naval Air Station Whidbey Island and listening to the concerns of military families.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/05 Federal court rules DACA 'unlawful'
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/federal-court-rules-daca-unlawful-allows-program-to-remain-amid-review/
GIST	<p>A federal appeals court on Wednesday ruled unlawful the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which protects an estimated 600,000 immigrants, including 17,000 in Washington (state), from deportation.</p> <p>The three-judge panel on the conservative-leaning 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed a 2021 ruling against the program from a federal judge in Texas, but did not order the Biden administration to stop the program, known by the acronym DACA.</p> <p>Thousands of people who are eligible for DACA but have been unable to apply remain in limbo. The halt on the program and lack of a pathway to citizenship for undocumented people in the U.S. has left families with permanent fears.</p> <p>The appeals court sent the case back to the Texas court to review the legality of regulations — set by the Biden administration this summer as part of a push to regulate the program — that are expected to take effect Oct. 31.</p> <p>The Biden administration is likely to file an appeal to Wednesday's decision, which would leave the Supreme Court to decide whether to hear the case.</p> <p>The ruling is hardly a surprise to many, considering the conservative makeup of the appeals court.</p> <p>"This should be a sounding alarm for Congress to pass a permanent solution," said longtime advocate and DACA recipient Kamau Chege, who cofounded the Washington Dream Coalition, an undocumented-youth-led organization. "It's undeniable that DACA recipients contribute to the fabric and economy of this country."</p> <p>A poll commissioned by the American Civil Liberties Union found 63% of registered U.S. voters in 2021 supported a pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients, immigrants working in essential industries and those with temporary protected status in the U.S.</p>

	<p>DACA recipients are protected from deportation and afforded work authorization. But there's no pathway for them to gain residency in the U.S. despite many calling this country home.</p> <p>"Congress has not been acting with the level of urgency they should. Still, we dodged a bullet," Chege said, referring to the appeals court's decision to declare unlawful but not abruptly end the program.</p> <p>The uncertainty surrounding DACA has left many unable to make long-term plans and has severely affected some recipients' mental health, said Malou Chávez, an attorney and deputy director of the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project.</p> <p>"The ruling sends a message that they're not a part of this country despite having spent most of their lives here," Chávez said.</p> <p>Matt Adams, the nonprofit's legal director, said the program is still essentially functioning as it had while the decision was pending, but the potential upheaval is detrimental to DACA recipients and their families.</p> <p>"There's no stability," he said.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/05 Officials urge: get trained on, carry Narcan
SOURCE	https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/seattle/seattle-king-county-narcan-overdose-deaths-opioids/281-910e4b60-0423-46c2-af36-98c2ab5cf4b1
GIST	<p>SEATTLE — With opioid-related overdose deaths on the rise, Seattle and King County officials are urging people to get trained on and carry Narcan. The Seattle Public Library is planning training for staff who volunteer.</p> <p>One box has the potential to save a life.</p> <p>"It's just one push, one dose," said Claudia Heiden, who keeps Narcan in her car. "You never know when there's going to be an overdose."</p> <p>It's ready to be used at a moment's notice.</p> <p>"It makes me feel really good inside to know that if I did see somebody overdosing, I could help them and I'm prepared," said Heiden, who has been carrying it since 2016.</p> <p>She understands addiction. Her daughter is now six months clean.</p> <p>"The last time I picked her up for treatment, she walked out to the car, she looked like every addict on the street. Every addict that I see, I think they have a parent just like me," Heiden said.</p> <p>She picked Narcan up from a pharmacy, no prescription needed, with a \$5 copay.</p> <p>"It's very easy and everybody should carry it," said Heiden.</p> <p>Seattle and King County Public Health agreed in a statement saying they want as many people as possible trained with Narcan on hand.</p> <p>According to King County's Fatal Overdose Dashboard, fentanyl-related overdoses have already exceeded last year's. In 2021, there were 385 fentanyl-related overdoses. As of Wednesday, there have been so far 433 this year.</p> <p>The Seattle Public Library is rolling out a program where employees can volunteer to be trained to administer Narcan.</p>

	<p>"It came about because a staff member expressed an interest in doing so with their supervisor so the Library Administration evaluated the idea and thought we could move forward with it," said Rick Sheridan, the director of Institutional and Strategic Advancement at the Seattle Public Library.</p> <p>Sheridan said the program is still a couple of months out.</p> <p>"At this point, we're working to secure the medication so we can position it in facilities and also provide training to staff volunteers," he said.</p> <p>Narcan is another tool, like CPR, that can save lives.</p> <p>"We all need to look out for everybody else and you can't help someone if they're not alive," said Heiden.</p> <p>Because the Seattle Public Library program uses staff volunteers, it can't guarantee every branch will have Narcan. There are programs that offer free Narcan, you can find them on stopoverdose.org. They also mail free kits to anyone in Washington.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/05 Inflation crimping holiday travel plans
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/bankrate-survey-holiday-travel-flights-reservations/
GIST	<p>Inflation could dash some of the holiday cheer for many Americans who plan on traveling for the season.</p> <p>Surging gas, airfare and hotel costs are making travelers especially budget-conscious, according to a new survey from Bankrate. Americans said they plan to travel shorter distances, spend fewer days out of town and engage in fewer activities that cost money. More people are also planning to drive to their destination instead of flying, while others are planning to use credit card points to book trips, the personal finance site found.</p> <p>Travel costs are up sharply compared to last year. Lodging away from home, which includes hotel stays, was up 4% in August from a year ago, according to the Consumer Price Index. Gasoline rose 26% during that same period, and airline fares jumped 28%, inflation data shows.</p> <p>The days between November 24 and January 1 are the busiest times for domestic travel. The price of plane tickets and hotel stays during the holidays are expected to continue growing, with airfares reaching some of their highest points in the past five years, according to travel booking app Hopper.</p> <p>Domestic flights on Christmas Day are roughly \$435 on average for a round-trip fare, up 55% from last year, while Thanksgiving airfare prices are about \$281 round-trip, a 25% increase from last year, Hopper's data shows. The average hotel stay over the Thanksgiving holiday will be \$189 per night, up 13% from last year, and \$218 a night during Christmas, up 32% from last year.</p> <p>Holiday travel also proved a challenge earlier this year, particularly around Memorial Day, when passengers experienced thousands of canceled or delayed flights. The cancellations stemmed from a combination of bad weather, staffing shortages and TSA and airlines over-scheduling some flights.</p> <p>"Hopefully this holiday season won't be as messy, but I suspect there will be more travel disruptions due to weather, high demand, lingering staff and equipment shortages," Bankrate senior industry analyst Ted Rossman said.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/05 CDC: most people long Covid debilitating
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/Health/people-long-covid-trouble-performing-day-day-activities/story?id=91040703
GIST	Most people suffering from long COVID are experiencing some trouble performing day-to-day activities, new federal data shows.

As of Sept. 26, 81% of adults with ongoing symptoms of COVID lasting three months or longer -- or four out of five adults -- are experiencing limitations in their daily activities compared to before they had the virus.

Additionally, 25% said they were experiencing significant limitations.

The [data](#) was published Wednesday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics.

The NCHS has been issuing the experimental Household Pulse Survey to ask about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic since April 2020 but included a question last month, in the survey sent to more than 50,000 people, on how long COVID has reduced people's ability to carry out day-to-day activities.

Young adults between ages 18 and 29 had the highest share of people currently with long COVID who have trouble performing daily tasks, at 86.3%. Meanwhile, those between ages 40 and 49 had the lowest share, at 76.1%.

When current long COVID patients were broken down by race/ethnicity, Black Americans were the most likely to report problems performing day-to-day activities, at 84.1%. This was also the racial group most likely to report significant limitations, along with white Americans.

The data showed that Asian Americans have the smallest share of long COVID patients with trouble performing daily tasks, at 76.7%.

The survey did not report data for most states. However, of the 14 states with data, Texas had the highest percentage of long COVID patients with activity limitations at 87.6% and Kentucky had the lowest percentage at 69%.

Long COVID occurs when patients who have cleared the infection still have symptoms lasting more than four weeks after recovering. In some cases, these symptoms can persist for months or even years.

Patients can experience a variety of lingering symptoms including fatigue, difficulty breathing, headaches, brain fog, joint and muscle pain, and continued loss of taste and smell, according to the [CDC](#).

It's unclear what causes people to develop long COVID but [research is ongoing](#).

The data showed that 14.2% of survey participants said they had experienced long COVID at some point during the pandemic.

Adults under age 60 were more likely to say they had the condition than older adults, and females were more likely to report long COVID than males.

A [review](#) from Johnson & Johnson's Office of the Chief Medical Officer for Women's Health published in June 2022 analyzed data from studies involving 1.3 million patients and found women are 22% more likely to develop long COVID than men.

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HEADLINE	10/06 Vast China region hit by Covid restrictions
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/chinas-vast-xinjiang-hit-covid-19-travel-restrictions-91086136
GIST	BEIJING -- Sprawling Xinjiang is the latest Chinese region to be hit with sweeping COVID-19 travel restrictions, as China further ratchets up control measures ahead of a key Communist Party congress later this month.

Trains and buses in and out of the region of 22 million people have been suspended, and passenger numbers on flights have been reduced to 75% capacity, reports said Thursday.

A notice from the regional government said the measures were enacted to “strictly prevent the risk of spillover” of the virus but gave no other details.

As is often the case with China’s draconian “zero-COVID” policy, the measures seemed out of proportion to the number of cases detected.

The National Health Commission announced just 93 cases in Xinjiang on Wednesday and 97 on Thursday, all of them asymptomatic. Xinjiang leaders on Tuesday conceded problems with detection and control measures but offered no word on when they planned to lift the restrictions.

Officials are desperate not to be called out for new outbreaks in their regions and Xinjiang has been under special scrutiny over the government's establishment of a series of prison-like re-education centers in which Muslim minorities have been taught to renounce their religion and allegedly subjected to a range of human rights abuses.

Xinjiang's vast surveillance system, relying on ubiquitous checkpoints, facial and even voice recognition software, and universal cell phone monitoring has made controlling travel among the population especially easy.

An earlier 40-day lockdown in Xinjiang left many residents complaining on inadequate food supplies.

“Zero-COVID” has been closely identified with Communist Party leader Xi Jinping, who is expected to receive a third five-year term in office at the congress beginning Oct. 16. That's despite criticisms from the World Health Organization and massive disruptions to the economy, education and normal life in China.

Last month, a nighttime bus crash that killed 27 people who were being forcefully moved to a mass quarantine location in southwestern China set off a storm of anger online over the harshness of the policy. Survivors said they had been compelled to leave their apartments even when not a single case had been discovered.

“Zero-COVID” has been celebrated by the country's leaders as evidence of the superiority of their system over the U.S., which has had more than a million COVID-19 deaths.

Xi has cited China’s approach as a “major strategic success” and evidence of the “significant advantages” of its political system over Western liberal democracies.

Yet even as other countries open up, the humanitarian costs to China’s pandemic approach have grown. With national and some provincial borders closed, tourism has all but dried up and the economy is forecast by the World Bank to grow by an anemic 2.8% this year. Xinjiang has been hit especially hard because of sanctions brought against some of its officials and products over human rights concerns.

Even without nationally identified criteria, testing and lockdowns have become the norm for tens of millions of people in China from the North Korean border to the South China Sea, as local officials desperately seek to avoid punishment and criticism.

Earlier this year in Shanghai, desperate residents complained of being unable to get medicines or even groceries during a two-month lockdown, while some died in hospitals from lack of medical care as the city restricted movement. All 26 million city residents in China’s largest city and financial hub have been ordered to undergo two additional days of testing this week, despite the announcement of just 11 new cases Thursday, none of which showed symptoms.

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SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/explainer-russias-military-woes-mount-amid-ukraine-attacks-91089469
GIST	<p>Even as the Kremlin moved to absorb parts of Ukraine in a sharp escalation of the conflict, the Russian military suffered new defeats that highlighted its deep problems on the battlefield and opened rifts at the top of the Russian government.</p> <p>The setbacks have badly dented the image of a powerful Russian military and added to the tensions surrounding an ill-planned mobilization. They have also fueled fighting among Kremlin insiders and left Russian President Vladimir Putin increasingly cornered.</p> <p>Here is a look at the latest Russian losses, some of the reasons behind them and the potential consequences.</p> <p>STRING OF DEFEATS IN THE NORTHEAST, SOUTH</p> <p>Relying on Western-supplied weapons, Ukraine has followed up on last month's gains in the northeastern Kharkiv region by pressing deeper into occupied areas and forcing Russian troops to withdraw from the city of Lyman, a key logistical hub.</p> <p>The Ukrainian army has also unleashed a broad counteroffensive in the south, capturing a string of villages on the western bank of the Dnieper River and advancing toward the city of Kherson.</p> <p>The Ukrainian gains in the Kherson region followed relentless strikes on the two main crossings over the Dnieper that made them unusable and forced Russian troops on the western bank of the Dnieper to rely exclusively on pontoon crossings, which also have been repeatedly hit by the Ukrainians.</p> <p>Phillips P. O'Brien, professor of strategic studies at the University of St Andrews, predicted more Russian failures in Kherson, noting that it's "hard to stabilize a line when your logistics are stretched, your troops are exhausted and your opponent is much, much smarter."</p> <p>Pressed against the wide river and suffering severe supply shortages, Russian troops face a looming defeat that could set the stage for a potential Ukrainian push to reclaim control of the Crimean Peninsula, which Moscow annexed in 2014.</p> <p>MILITARY SHORTAGES AND COMMAND WOES</p> <p>Military reporters and bloggers embedded with Russian troops in Ukraine have painted a bleak picture of an ill-equipped and poorly organized force under incompetent command.</p> <p>With the war in its eighth month, the Russian military suffers from an acute shortage of personnel, lack of coordination between units and unstable supply lines.</p> <p>Many Russian units also have low morale, a depressed mood that contrasts sharply with Ukraine's well-motivated forces.</p> <p>Unlike the Ukrainian military, which has relied on intelligence data provided by the U.S. and its NATO allies to select and strike targets, the Russian army has been plagued by poor intelligence.</p> <p>When Russian intelligence spots a Ukrainian target, the military engages in a long process of securing clearance to strike it, which often drags on until the target disappears.</p> <p>Russian war correspondents particularly bemoaned the shortage of drones and noted that Iranian-supplied drones have not been used for maximum effectiveness due to the poor selection of targets.</p> <p>KREMLIN CALLS UP MORE TROOPS, ANNEXES TERRITORY</p>

Russian President Vladimir Putin responded to the Ukrainian counteroffensive by ordering a partial military mobilization, which aims to round up at least 300,000 reservists to beef up forces along the 1,000-kilometer front line in Ukraine.

At the start of the invasion, Ukraine declared a sweeping mobilization, with a goal of forming a 1 million-member military. Russia until that moment had tried to win the war with a shrinking contingent of volunteer soldiers. The U.S. put the initial invading force at up to 200,000, and some Western estimates put Russian casualties as high as 80,000 dead, wounded and captured.

While the hawkish circles in Moscow welcomed the mobilization as long overdue, hundreds of thousands of Russian men fled abroad to avoid being recruited, and protests flared up across the country, raising new challenges to the Kremlin.

Fresh recruits posted images showing them being forced to sleep on the floor or even in the open air. Some reported being handed rusty weapons and told to buy medical kits and other basic supplies themselves. In a tacit recognition of supply problems, Putin dismissed a deputy defense minister in charge of military logistics.

The mobilization offers no quick fix for Russia's military woes. It will take months for the new recruits to train and form battle-ready units.

Putin then upped the ante by abruptly annexing the occupied regions of Ukraine and voicing readiness to use "all means available" to protect them, a blunt reference to Russia's nuclear arsenal.

RIFTS OPEN UP AT THE TOP

In an unprecedented sign of infighting in the higher echelons of the government, the Kremlin-backed regional leader of Chechnya, Ramzan Kadyrov, has scathingly criticized the top military brass, accusing them of incompetence and nepotism.

Kadyrov blamed Col. Gen. Alexander Lapin for failing to secure supplies and reinforcements for his troops that led to their retreat from Lyman. He declared that the general deserves to be stripped of his rank and sent to the front line as a private to "wash off his shame with his blood."

Kadyrov also directly accused Russia's top military officer, Gen. Valery Gerasimov, of covering up Lapin's blunders — a pointed attack that fueled speculation that the Chechen leader might have forged an alliance with other hawkish members of the Russian elite against the top military leadership.

In a blunt statement, Kadyrov also urged the Kremlin to consider using low-yield nuclear weapons against Ukraine to reverse the course of the war, a call that appeared to reflect the growing popularity of the idea among the Kremlin hawks.

In a show of continuing support for Kadyrov, Putin promoted him to colonel general to mark his birthday, a move certain to anger the top brass. And while Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov described Kadyrov's statement as overly emotional, he strongly praised the Chechen leader's role in the fighting and his troops' valor.

In another sign of intensifying dissent at the top, Yevgeny Prigozhin, a millionaire businessman dubbed "Putin's chef," lashed out at the governor of St. Petersburg, charging that his failure to provide assistance for Prigozhin's Wagner private security company amounts to supporting Ukraine.

Some other members of the Russian elite offered quick support for Kadyrov and Prigozhin, who have increasingly served as frontmen for the hawkish circles in Moscow.

	Retired Lt. Gen. Andrei Gurulev, a senior member of the lower house of Russian parliament, strongly backed the Chechen leader, saying that the Russian defeat in Lyman was rooted in the top brass' desire to report only good news to Putin. “It’s a problem of total lies and positive reports from top to bottom,” he said.
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HEADLINE	10/05 Ukraine vows to continue counteroffensive
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/ukraine-vows-continue-counteroffensive-russias-mobilization-annexation-territory/story?id=91027416
GIST	<p>KYIV, Ukraine -- Russian President Vladimir Putin’s annexation of Ukrainian regions and his mass mobilization of reservists won't stop Ukrainian forces from continuing their counteroffensive against Russian forces, senior Ukrainian officials told ABC News.</p> <p>Putin on Oct. 4 signed into law the annexation of four Ukrainian territories after illegal referendums, conducted last week in the so-called Donetsk and Luhansk People’s Republics, which were formed in 2014, and parts of the southern Zaporizhzhia and Kherson oblasts, which have been occupied by Russia since Feb. 24.</p> <p>The referendum "results" announced by the Russian-installed authorities alleged that more than 90% of the voters in each region supported separation from Ukraine and joining Russia.</p> <p>The Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs called the referendums “yet another Russian crime” and “null and worthiness.” The U.S., as well as the EU, have condemned the orchestrated “voting.” President Joe Biden vowed to "never, never, never" recognize the results of the Russian-led referendums.</p> <p>By annexing Russian-occupied territory and threatening to use nuclear weapons, Putin is attempting to force Kyiv to the negotiating table, an Institute for the Study of War report said.</p> <p>Attacks against any part of the swathe of Ukraine that Russia annexed would be considered aggression against Russia itself, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. Putin said previously that he was willing to use nuclear weapons to defend Russia's "territorial integrity."</p> <p>An official in the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine told ABC News that the probability of the Russian nuclear attack was considered low. He, as well as an official close to the minister of defense, also said the annexation of the four Ukrainian regions will not affect the counteroffensive of the Ukrainian army "in any way for now."</p> <p>In response to the annexation President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine signed a decree Tuesday ruling out any negotiations with Putin.</p> <p>“It was our state that always offered Russia to agree on coexistence on equal, honest, dignified and fair terms," Zelenskyy said. "It is obvious that this is impossible with this Russian president. He does not know what dignity and honesty are. Therefore, we are ready for a dialogue with Russia, but already with another president of Russia."</p> <p>Mykhailo Podolyak, an advisor to the head of the president’s office, told ABC: “In order for the dialogue to become possible, Russia must abandon the basic demand -- the claim to Ukrainian territory. And the ball is on the Russian side. One call is all it takes to give the order to cease fire and withdraw troops. Obviously, Putin will never go for it.”</p> <p>Russia doesn’t fully control the four regions of Ukraine where the illegal referendums were held, adding further complications to the process of declaring them part of Russia.</p>

"The territories of the DPR, the LPR, and the Kherson and Zaporizhzhya regions lie within the borders that existed on the day of their establishment and the day of their entry into Russia," the Russian law signed by Putin says. The "day of entry" is when the Russian parliament makes the respective amendments to the Constitution.

But during a week between the referendums and the day when Putin signed the law, the Armed Forces of Ukraine pushed more than 30 km forward in the Kherson region and liberated, in particular, a town of Lyman in the Lugansk region.

Neither will the military draft announced by Putin on Sept. 21 change the course of the war in Ukraine, Ukrainian General Staff and the ministry of defense representatives told ABC News.

Russia's Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said Tuesday 200,000 men have now been mobilized, but the actual number is still unclear. The U.K. Ministry of Defense said Russia is struggling to recruit troop leaders and train the newly called up.

Mykola Belieskov, a research fellow at Ukraine's National Institute for Strategic Studies, said the draft "should be viewed primarily as an effort to keep the current front line intact."

"As you see, no Russian strikes so far, although the Ukrainian forces are advancing," he told ABC.

The Institute of the Study of War also said in one of its daily reports that the Kremlin's decision to mobilize more manpower will not improve the performance of the Russian army in Ukraine.

Zelenskyy called upon the Russian conscripts to surrender to Ukraine.

"We see that people, in particular, in Dagestan, began to fight for their lives. We see that they are beginning to understand that this is a matter of their lives," he said, switching in his speech between the Ukrainian and Russian languages. "Why should their husbands, brothers, sons die in this war?"

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HEADLINE	10/06 NKorea launches more missiles into sea
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/seoul-north-korea-fires-missile-sea-91063360
GIST	<p>SEOUL, South Korea -- North Korea launched two short-range ballistic missiles toward its eastern waters Thursday after the United States redeployed an aircraft carrier near the Korean Peninsula in response to Pyongyang's previous launch of a nuclear-capable missile over Japan.</p> <p>The latest missile launches suggest North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is determined to continue with weapons tests aimed at boosting his nuclear arsenal in defiance of international sanctions. Many experts say Kim's goal is to eventually win U.S. recognition as a legitimate nuclear state and the lifting of those sanctions, though the international community has shown no sign of allowing that to happen.</p> <p>The latest missiles were launched 22 minutes apart from the North's capital region and landed between the Korean Peninsula and Japan, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement. The first missile flew 350 kilometers (217 miles) and reached a maximum altitude of 80 kilometers (50 miles) and the second flew 800 kilometers (497 miles) on an apogee of 60 kilometers (37 miles).</p> <p>The flight details were similar to Japanese assessments announced by Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada, who confirmed that the missiles didn't reach Japan's exclusive economic zone.</p> <p>He added that the second missile was possibly launched on an "irregular" trajectory. It is a term that has been previously used to describe the flight characteristics of a North Korean weapon modeled after Russia's Iskander missile, which travels at low altitudes and is designed to be maneuverable in flight to improve its chances of evading missile defenses.</p>

South Korea's military said it has boosted its surveillance posture and maintains readiness in close coordination with the United States. The U.S. Indo Pacific Command said the launches didn't pose an immediate threat to United States or its allies, but still highlighted the "destabilizing impact" of North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who was expected to hold a telephone call with South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol over the North Korean threat later Thursday, said the North's continued launches were "absolutely intolerable."

Yoon's office said his National Security Director Kim Sung-han discussed the launch at an emergency security meeting where members discussed plans to prepare for further North Korean hostilities, including military provocations.

The launches were North Korea's sixth round of weapons tests in less than two weeks, adding to a record number of missile launches this year that has prompted condemnation from the United States and other countries. South Korean officials the North may up the ante soon by testing an intercontinental ballistic missile or conducting its first nuclear test explosion since 2017 and seventh overall, escalating an old pattern of heightening tensions before trying to wrest outside concessions.

Moon Hong Sik, a South Korean Defense Ministry spokesperson, said North Korea's accelerating tests also reflect an urgency to meet Kim Jong Un's arms development goals. Kim last year described an extensive wish list of advanced nuclear weapons systems, including more powerful ICBMs, multiwarhead missiles, underwater-launched nuclear missiles and tactical nuclear arms.

North Korea is "moving accordingly with the timeline it set for itself," Moon said.

On Tuesday, North Korea staged its most provocative weapons demonstration since 2017, firing an intermediate-range missile over Japan, forcing the Japanese government to issue evacuation alerts and halt trains.

Experts said the weapon was likely a Hwasong-12 missile capable of reaching the U.S. Pacific territory of Guam and beyond.

Other weapons tested earlier included Iskander-like missiles and other ballistic weapons designed to strike key targets in South Korea, including U.S. military bases there.

Thursday's launches came as the U.S. aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan returned to waters east of South Korea in what South Korea's military called an attempt to demonstrate the allies' "firm will" to counter North's continued provocations and threats.

The carrier was in the area last week as part of drills between South Korea and the United States and the allies' other training involving Japan. North Korea considers such U.S.-led drills near the peninsula as an invasion rehearsal and views training involving a U.S. carrier more provocative.

North Korea's Foreign Ministry said in a statement Thursday that the redeployment of the Reagan strike group poses "a serious threat to the stability of the situation on the Korean peninsula and in its vicinity." The ministry said it strongly condemns U.S.-led efforts at the U.N. Security Council to tighten sanctions on the North over its recent missile testing, which it described as a "just counteraction" to joint U.S.-South Korean drills.

After the North's intermediate-range missile launch, the United States and South Korea also carried out their own live-fire drills that have so far involved land-to-land ballistic missiles and precision-guided bombs dropped from fighter jets.

But one of the tit-for-tat launches nearly caused catastrophe early Wednesday when a malfunctioning South Korean Hyunmoo-2 missile flipped shortly after liftoff and crashed into the ground at an air force

	<p>base in the eastern coastal city of Gangneung. South Korea's military said no one was hurt and civilian facilities weren't affected.</p> <p>After Tuesday's North Korean launch, the United States, Britain, France, Albania, Norway and Ireland called for an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council. But the session Wednesday ended with no consensus, underscoring a divide among the council's permanent members that has deepened over Russia's war on Ukraine.</p> <p>Russia and China during the meeting insisted to fellow Security Council members that U.S.-led military exercises in the region had provoked North Korea into acting. The United States and its allies expressed concern that the the council's inability to reach consensus on North Korea's record number of missile launches this year was emboldening North Korea and undermining the authority of the United Nations' most powerful body.</p> <p>North Korea has fired more than 40 ballistic and cruise missiles over more than 20 launch events this year, using the stalled diplomacy with the United States and Russia's war on Ukraine as a window to speed up arms development.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/05 Schools, universities students protest
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/US/students-50-schools-universities-stage-reproductive-justice-protests/story?id=90972293
GIST	<p>Students at more than 60 high schools and universities across at least 29 states are holding student strikes and events on Thursday to fight for reproductive justice. The self-dubbed "Day of Student Action" is organized by the Graduate Student Action Network, a group formed in response to the U.S. Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade ending federal protections for abortion rights, and the Young Democratic Socialists of America.</p> <p>Students plan to demand that their school step in and defend their reproductive rights and freedom of gender expression in the absence of action from elected leaders, CalTech graduate student and founder of GSAN, Rachael Kuintzle told ABC News in an interview.</p> <p>GSAN was born over the summer when Kuintzle started emailing student leaders including grad student government leaders, union reps and advocacy club officers.</p> <p>"Right after the Supreme Court decision in June, I felt really helpless and I started reaching out to grad students across the country ... emailing them, and asking if they wanted to meet together and figure out what we can do to get health into the hands of our students as soon as possible. And so what came out of that was this day of action," Kuintzle said in an interview with ABC News.</p> <p>Another student group, the Young Democratic Socialists of America, was also separately running a reproductive justice group looking into how they could make a difference and so the two groups teamed up, organizing protests and events jointly, Kuintzle said.</p> <p>GSAN plans to send letters to Congress and President Joe Biden on Thursday listing their demands.</p> <p>In the group's letter to Congress, they are demanding safe, legal, and accessible abortion; gender-affirming healthcare; free contraception of all varieties; and federally mandated sex education, including standardized curriculum on sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy prevention and consent.^[1]^[2]^[SEP]</p> <p>GSAN is asking Biden to declare a public health emergency over abortion to ensure that abortion pills can be provided by mail for free in all states and implement a program to mail free at-home pregnancy tests on demand to U.S. households to enable early detection of pregnancies.</p>

The letters will be sent from the group of student leaders, but students at some campuses are also gathering signatures for petitions listing demands specific to their school.

Some of the campuses organizing protests or events Thursday include the University of Arkansas, the University of South Dakota, multiple CUNY system campuses, University of Texas at Austin, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard Law School.

Nikole Schneider and Danielle Galvin, students at the University of South Dakota, told ABC News they will also be fighting for health insurance, which they do not currently have. They plan to set up several booths on Thursday for voter registration, the student health center, the school's mental health services, Planned Parenthood and a fundraising booth for a student-run group that offers free healthcare services for those without insurance.

Schneider and Galvin said being in contact with students from around the country has allowed them to feel like they are making a difference, despite initially feeling lonely and helpless after Roe was overturned.

"It's definitely changed how I think that I can affect what's happening in the country, especially now, just like being a part of something bigger," Schneider said.

Galvin said it has been eye-opening to hear the support other students around the country are getting from their schools, with those students giving them advice on how to advocate for themselves with their university's administration.

A trigger ban in South Dakota prohibits abortions entirely, "unless there is appropriate and reasonable medical judgment that performance of an abortion is necessary to preserve the life of the pregnant female," according to the law.

The law, which went into effect when Roe was overturned, makes it a class 6 felony to provide abortion care in the state.

Students at the University of Arkansas have already had a few protests since Roe was overturned, but they are hoping this day of action would give them momentum going into the midterms, specifically because of the tight restrictions on abortion in the state and attacks on transgender individuals, organizer and graduate student Katy Dupree told ABC News.

A state law in Arkansas bans all abortions except to save the life of the mother, making it a felony for anyone to perform a non-approved abortion, punishable with up to 10 years in prison.

Dupree said they are organizing a comprehensive resource fair with a voter registration booth and speakers along with their student walkout and protest.

"This organization kind of fell into my lap. And it has been a very serendipitous and beneficial kind of happenstance for me, I struggled a lot through the pandemic with figuring out if graduate school is something that I really wanted to continue to pursue. And if I was happy with what I was studying, and really found that advocating for others helped me pull myself kind of up and out," Dupree said.

The student leaders all agreed that the Oct. 6 protest is just a starting point. What started out as Kuintzle emailing students around the country has since grown into a more organized graduate student group.

"We have a structure, we voted on a name together, we meet regularly, we have rules of operation, we're over 50 grad leaders in over 30 states," Kuintzle said.

Only 59 campuses opted to publicly list their name on the GSA website, saying they will participate in the protests, but Kuintzle said there will be events at seven other schools.

The group plans to continue organizing events and advocating for students in the future.

	"We're committed to fighting for our students rights, not just in reproductive justice, but beyond. We're looking for future actions and climate justice and indigenous sovereignty, we're going to be taking some action to fight for higher stipends and better health care coverage for graduate students in the near future as well," Kuintzle said.
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HEADLINE	10/05 Hurricane Ian death toll continues to rise
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/US/multiple-deaths-reported-hurricane-ian-slams-florida/story?id=90693636
GIST	<p>At least 120 people in Florida have died due to Hurricane Ian, according to local officials, as the death toll continues to climb a week after the powerful storm slammed into the state's southwestern coast.</p> <p>Five additional people were also reported dead due to the storm in North Carolina, according to the governor's office.</p> <p>The Category 4 storm made landfall in Florida the afternoon of Sept. 28, causing catastrophic damage, fierce winds and dangerous, record-breaking storm surges.</p> <p>The deaths span multiple counties in Florida, including 58 in Lee County and 24 in Charlotte County. Also reported were seven in Monroe County; five each in Volusia, Collier and Sarasota counties; four in Hendry County; three each in Manatee and Putnam counties; two in Polk County; and one each in Hardee, Hillsborough, Lake and Martin counties, ABC News has determined based on information from the Florida Medical Examiners Commission and inquiries with local officials and authorities.</p> <p>Hurricane Ian's death toll has been rising amid ongoing search and rescue missions.</p> <p>The causes of the deaths in Florida were primarily drownings, as well as two vehicle accidents and a roofing accident, officials said.</p> <p>It is unclear whether the state's figure overlaps with ABC News' analysis. The state confirms deaths by reviewing medical examiner records, which can take some time.</p> <p>Confirmed deaths from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement occurred in Lake, Sarasota, Manatee, Volusia and Collier counties between Sept. 27 and 30. The victims ranged in age from 22 to 91. One, a 68-year-old woman, drowned after being swept into the ocean by a wave on Sept. 29, the department said.</p> <p>The Volusia County Sheriff's Office was among the first to publicly announce a fatality from Ian. A 72-year-old man in Deltona died after attempting to drain his pool during the storm, the office said Thursday.</p> <p>The man, who was not publicly identified, "disappeared" after heading outside, the sheriff's office said. Deputies found him unresponsive in a canal behind the home and he was pronounced dead at a local hospital, the sheriff's office said.</p> <p>The storm made landfall again on Sept. 30 in South Carolina, which has reported no deaths due to the storm so far, Gov. Henry McMaster said Saturday.</p> <p>Though in neighboring North Carolina, five storm-related deaths have been reported. In a statement Saturday, Gov. Roy Cooper said three involved vehicle accidents on Sept. 30, with the victims ranging in age from 22 to 25. Additionally, a 65-year-old man died on Oct. 1 from carbon monoxide poisoning after running a generator in his closed garage while the power was out. The manner of the fifth death is unclear.</p> <p>Florida Rep. Kathy Castor, who represents the Tampa Bay area, called the situation a "major catastrophe."</p> <p>"I'm afraid we're going to be dealing with a larger loss of life than we anticipated," she said on "ABC News Live" on Sept. 29.</p>

	<p>Florida Sen. Rick Scott told "Good Morning America" on Sept. 29 there were "thousands of rescue efforts going on right now."</p> <p>"We've got great sheriff's departments, police departments, fire departments, state rescue teams. They're working hard. But there's a lot of people that need help right now," he said.</p> <p>He expressed concern for the state's many low-lying areas.</p> <p>"The water kills and I'm just -- I'm scared to death of, you know, what's happened here and I hope everybody stays safe," he said.</p> <p>Lee County Sheriff Carmine Marceno told "Good Morning America" on Sept. 29 they had thousands of 911 calls they were answering.</p> <p>"We still cannot access many of the people that are in need," Marceno said. "It's a real, real rough road ahead."</p>
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Cyber, Tech Awareness

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HEADLINE	10/05 Russia spreads propaganda videos
SOURCE	https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-technology-misinformation-0da59f7a72705c5f3fdb59af1fc7af0
GIST	<p>Russia has devised yet another way to spread disinformation about its invasion of Ukraine, using digital tricks that allow its war propaganda videos to evade restrictions imposed by governments and tech companies.</p> <p>Accounts linked to Russian state-controlled media have used the new method to spread dozens of videos in 18 different languages, all without leaving telltale signs that would give away the source, researchers at Nisos, a U.S.-based intelligence firm that tracks disinformation and other cyber threats, said in a report released Wednesday.</p> <p>The videos push Kremlin conspiracy theories blaming Ukraine for civilian casualties as well as claims that residents of areas forcibly annexed by Russia have welcomed their occupiers.</p> <p>English-language versions of the Russian propaganda videos are now circulating on Twitter and lesser-known platforms popular with American conservatives, including Gab and Truth Social, created by former President Donald Trump, giving Russia a direct conduit to millions of people.</p> <p>In an indication of the Kremlin's ambitions and the sprawling reach of its disinformation operations, versions of the videos were also created in Spanish, Italian, German and more than a dozen other languages.</p> <p>"The genius of this approach is that the videos can be downloaded directly from Telegram and it erases the trail that researchers try to follow," Nisos' senior intelligence analyst Patricia Bailey told The Associated Press. "They are creative and adaptable. And they are analyzing their audience."</p> <p>The European Union moved to ban RT and Sputnik, two of Russia's leading state-run media outlets, after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in late February. Tech companies such as Google's YouTube and Meta's Facebook and Instagram also announced they would ban content from the outlets within the 27-nation EU, undermining Russia's ability to spread its propaganda.</p>

Russian attempts to get around the new rules began almost immediately. New websites were created to host videos that make debunked claims about the war. [Russian diplomats took on some of the work.](#)

The latest effort revealed by analysts at Nisos involved uploading propaganda videos to Telegram, a loosely moderated platform that is broadly popular in Eastern Europe and used by many conservatives in the United States. In some cases, watermarks identifying the video as RT's were removed in a further attempt to disguise their source.

Once on Telegram, the videos were downloaded and reposted on platforms including Twitter without any labels or other indications that the video was produced by Russian state media. Hundreds of accounts that later posted or reposted the videos were linked by Nisos researchers to the Russian military, embassies or state media.

Some of the accounts appeared to use fake profile photos or posted content in strange ways that suggested they were inauthentic.

One example: a Twitter account supposedly run by a woman living in Japan that had a singular interest in Russian propaganda. Instead of posting about a variety of topics such as entertainment, food, travel or family, the account user only posted Russian propaganda videos — and not just in Japanese, but also in Farsi, Polish, Spanish and Russian.

The account also cited or reposted content from Russian embassies hundreds of times, researchers found, showing again the close relationship between Russian diplomats and the country's propaganda work.

When it comes to Russia's overall disinformation capabilities, Bailey said, the network is "just one piece of a puzzle that is quite large."

Twitter labels content that it can identify as coming from Russian state media. Since late February, the company says it's added labels to more than 900,000 different Tweets that contained links to Russian state outlets like RT. In addition, the platform does not artificially promote content from state media accounts.

"We use labels to make it clear on Twitter when an account is operated by a state actor, such as a state-backed media outlet, and we will not recommend or amplify Tweets from these types of accounts," a company spokesperson told The AP.

More examples of Russian disinformation campaigns have emerged as the war has dragged on. Last week, Russia [sought to spread a baseless conspiracy theory](#) blaming the U.S. for sabotage to the Nord Stream natural gas pipelines in the Baltic Sea.

The same week, Meta announced the discovery of a [sprawling Russian disinformation network](#) that created websites designed to look like major European news outlets. Instead of news, the websites carried propaganda intended to drive a wedge between Ukraine and its western allies.

That operation was the largest of its kind to originate in Russia since the war began, researchers concluded.

"The network exhibited an overarching pattern of targeting Europe with anti-Ukraine narratives and expressions of support for Russian interests," according to a report from the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab, which helped identify the network disabled by Meta.

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HEADLINE	10/05 Zelle fraud is on the rise
SOURCE	https://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2022/10/zelle-fraud-is-on-the-rise-and-many-victims-are-denied-refunds/

When seven of the biggest banks in America saw that their customers liked using apps to send instant peer-to-peer payments, they rolled out Zelle through a jointly owned company called Early Warning Services in 2017 and quickly began processing billions in payments annually. By 2021, Zelle was processing nearly twice the number of payments as Venmo, but as the volume of Zelle payments increased, so did rumors about increased fraud. Scammed Zelle users [complained to the New York Times](#) that Zelle did not always reimburse customers who reported stolen money.

Suspicious after mounting anecdotal reports, one of the toughest policymakers on banks, Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), launched an investigation. She demanded data from all seven of the big banks: JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo, US Bank, PNC, Capital One, Bank of America, and Truist. Only four banks complied. However, [Warren's report released this week](#) shows that even half the data she sought was enough to show that “fraud is growing” on Zelle and that “the banks are not refunding the vast majority of defrauded consumers, breaking their promises to their customers and potentially violating federal law.”

According to Warren's analysis of data shared by US Bank, PNC, Bank of America, and Truist, these four banks alone are “on pace to receive scam and fraud claims in excess of \$255 million in 2022,” a dramatic spike compared to \$90 million in 2020.

The majority of these claims—totaling more than 190,000 cases disputing \$213 million in payments in 2021 and half of 2022—involved customers who were induced to make fraudulent payments by scammers. Only three banks provided complete data to Warren, which showed they repaid scammed customers in less than 10 percent of cases.

Warren's report says that the banks are relying on federal laws—the Electronic Fund Transfer Act and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB) “Regulation E”—which “require that the banks repay customers when funds are illegally taken out of their account without authorization.” But crucially, banks don't have to pay if people authorize such payments, which is happening here, even if the payments are made to scammers. Now Warren is pushing CFPB to clarify Regulation E so that banks must acknowledge this method of attacking consumers as fraudulent and unauthorized.

More troubling is Warren's suggestion that banks are also potentially breaking current law by not reimbursing unauthorized fraudulent charges. Warren says that the three banks who shared data revealed that they only reimbursed consumers for 47 percent of unauthorized payments that they should be legally required to reimburse every time.

A spokesperson for Early Warning Services did not comment on the allegations of violating federal law but did tell Ars that where Warren sees an increase in fraudulent activity year to year, Early Warning Services sees a decrease in fraudulent activity proportional to its growing userbase.

“Tens of millions of consumers use Zelle without incident, with more than 99.9 percent of payments completed without any report of fraud or scam,” Early Warning Services' spokesperson told Ars. “Zelle usage has grown significantly since its launch, from 247 million transactions in 2017 to 1.8 billion in 2021, while the proportion of fraud and scams has steadily decreased.”

Common scams that banks aren't required to reimburse

Warren reports that banks tell consumers that Zelle has a zero liability policy for fraud—but that banks know that Zelle's policy excludes increasingly common scams known as “spoofing” and “me-to-me” scams.

When spoofing, scammers use “a reputable institution's name or branding to induce a fraudulent payment.” Cases of “me-to-me” scams involve the “use of a consumer's own contact information to disguise a payment” to a scammer's account, leading the consumer to think that they're sending a payment to their own account when they are not. In both cases, because consumers initiate payment, banks aren't legally required to reimburse consumers making claims of fraudulent activity.

Both types of scams happened at once to one Wells Fargo customer who [told the New York Times](#) that the scammer linked their own bank account to the customer's account, then called the customer from a number that the customer's cellphone displayed as a valid call from Wells Fargo. The scammer posed as a Wells Fargo agent and got the customer to send a \$500 payment to his own phone number before the customer got suspicious and disconnected. Later, Wells Fargo "repeatedly rebuffed" the customer's claims of fraudulent activity on his Zelle app.

For some Zelle users, the cost of getting scammed can be much higher. Warren reported that consumers in Massachusetts, Georgia, Illinois, and California have reported losses of thousands of dollars from these scams, and "in many cases, consumers reported losses that could significantly impact their small business and even wipe out their life savings."

According to Warren, Zelle distinguishes between fraud—unauthorized charges that are reimbursable—and scams—authorized charges that are fraudulently induced. Banks have argued that scam claims can be harder to verify; they say that what's needed isn't more bank regulations but better cooperation between banks and law enforcement investigating scam claims.

It's hard to know the full extent of the problem without data from all 1,700 banks and credit unions that use Zelle. Since 2021, [CFPB has collected hundreds of scam claims](#). Some banks reported data to Warren showing total scam activity that banks considered authorized and therefore not reimbursable, which happened in 2021 and six months into 2022. Data from Truist reported 7,223 scam cases involving over \$5.4 million in payments, US Bank reported 21,794 cases involving over \$13.6 million, and PNC reported 6,831 cases involving nearly \$6.9 million. Chase, Wells Fargo, and Capital One did not provide this requested data to Warren.

Because Regulation E is currently vague, not all banks agree on how to manage spoofing and "me-to-me" scams. Some banks, like Truist, specifically do not include authorized scam activity under Zelle's zero liability policy, but other banks reportedly do reimburse some scam activity. Chase Head of US Government Relations, Michelle Mesack, told Warren [in a letter provided to Ars](#) that Chase reimburses "me-to-me" scams, "even though this would be considered an authorized transaction under Regulation E."

Banks and policymakers disagree on solutions

Warren did not respond to Ars' request for comment but reported that CFPB is "reportedly considering issuing guidance clarifying the scope of Regulation E." CFPB did not respond in time for deadline to clarify the expected timeline of their review. (**Update, 4:11 pm ET:** Although it cannot comment on the review timeline, CFPB told Ars, "Reports and consumer complaints of payments scams have risen sharply, and financial fraud can be devastating for victims. The CFPB is working to prevent further harm, including by ensuring that financial institutions are living up to their investigation and error-resolution obligations." CFPB also clarified that in some cases that banks could consider a transaction "authorized," CFPB has found "a fraudster is initiating a payment out of a consumer's account after fraudulently inducing the consumer to provide to the fraudster a numerical code that the institution texted to the consumer, and which the fraudster needs in order to initiate the payment out of the consumer's account." These attacks would be covered under Regulation E currently, and CFPB encourages consumers to report them.)

None of the banks included in Warren's report immediately responded to Ars' request for comment, except Chase, which disagreed with how Warren has characterized fraudulent activity on Zelle but would not go on the record with an official statement.

A nonpartisan advocacy and research organization, the Bank Policy Institute, provided Ars with a joint statement on Warren's report from the American Bankers Association, Bank Policy Institute, Consumer Bankers Association, and The Clearing House. The statement says that "Sen. Warren fails to acknowledge that 99.9 percent of the 5 billion transactions processed on the Zelle network in the past 5 years were sent without any report of fraud or scams."

“That doesn’t mean that Zelle, just like every other instant P2P payment service, is entirely free from those who seek to defraud the American consumer,” the statement said. “Banks know this and take steps to mitigate instances of fraud and criminal activity,” such as warning consumers.

They also claim that expanding CFPB regulations could result in diminished access to Zelle, new Zelle fees imposed on users, and more limited features, potentially resulting in “a chilling and disproportionate impact on community banks and all small financial institutions.”

Their preferred solution is to focus on the criminals, not the banks, saying, “Let’s stop the criminals rather than create policies that risk diminishing the value and benefits of this increasingly popular and indispensable service.”

Consumer Watchdog president Jamie Court agrees with Warren that clarifying regulations is critical. “We agree with Senator Warren that the CFPB should clarify existing regulations to make sure that victims of Zelle fraud are reimbursed for the fraud they suffered by the banks that are profiting from Zelle,” Court told Ars.

Beyond CFPB potentially updating Regulation E to include scams as illegal activity banks must reimburse, Court thinks CFPB should make banks be more transparent about the risks involved with using Zelle.

“The CFPB should require the banks to do better policing of the platform and greater education of consumers of the dangers of fraud on it,” Court told Ars. “If the banks negligently operate a platform like Zelle, they should be responsible to defrauded consumers who are victims of that negligence.”

“Given this uncertain landscape and the banks’ abdication of responsibility, regulatory clarity is needed to further protect Zelle users,” Warren concluded in her report.

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HEADLINE	10/05 SCADA breaches in ports, terminals
SOURCE	https://www.securityweek.com/scada-systems-involved-many-breaches-suffered-us-ports-terminals
GIST	<p>Law firm Jones Walker has published the results of a survey focusing on the cybersecurity preparedness of ports and terminals in the United States.</p> <p>According to Jones Walker’s 2022 Ports and Terminals Cybersecurity Survey, there has been a significant increase in cyberattacks targeting this sector, and while a vast majority of the respondents claim they are prepared to handle cyber threats, many have confirmed suffering breaches in the past year.</p> <p>The report is based on the responses of 125 c-suite executives, directors, security and compliance officers, and general counsel from the ports and terminals industry. The data was collected in May and comes from both blue- and brown-water facilities across the United States.</p> <p>More than 90% of respondents were very confident in their overall level of cybersecurity and preparedness to withstand a cyber incident.</p> <p>However, 55% said they had detected an attempt to breach their environment and 45% admitted suffering some type of breach within the past year. Fourteen percent said the incident resulted in data getting encrypted or becoming inaccessible, and 11% said the breach resulted in data exfiltration.</p> <p>When asked about the types of systems involved in data breaches, 36% named supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems and 32% named field device management systems.</p> <p>In addition, SCADA has been named the top ‘cybersecurity vulnerability’ of US ports and terminals.</p> <p>“As volume and traffic to these facilities have seen exponential growth, maritime ports and terminals have also undergone significant changes in digitalization and automation of terminal operating and industrial</p>

	<p>control systems (ICS). Facilities are increasingly using automated operational technology (OT) systems to augment information technology (IT) and to communicate data, operate equipment, track cargo and containers, and manage commercial operations,” Jones Walker noted in its report.</p> <p>When asked to describe the type or nature of the attack that resulted in their facility’s systems getting compromised, RDP was the top response (38%), followed by malware (26%), hacking (24%), social engineering (22%), ransomware (20%), and business email compromise (18%).</p> <p>Nearly two-thirds of respondents said a solo threat actor was responsible for breaching their systems, followed at a distance by organized crime groups. State-sponsored hackers have only been blamed in 14% of cases, but they are seen by many as one of the main threats.</p>
Return to Top	The complete 2022 Ports and Terminals Cybersecurity Survey is available in PDF format.

HEADLINE	10/06 Malicious cyber unlikely to disrupt election
SOURCE	https://www.securityweek.com/fbi-cisa-say-malicious-cyber-activity-unlikely-disrupt-election
GIST	<p>The FBI and CISA have issued a public service announcement (PSA) to say that, based on their assessment, malicious cyber activities are unlikely to significantly disrupt the upcoming midterm elections in the United States.</p> <p>The agencies have been tracking threat actors’ attempts to compromise election infrastructure, but said these attempts were localized and they were blocked or mitigated with minimal or no disruption. They are confident that threat actors are unlikely to be able to cause any large-scale disruption or prevent people from voting.</p> <p>“As of the date of this report, the FBI and CISA have no reporting to suggest cyber activity has ever prevented a registered voter from casting a ballot, compromised the integrity of any ballots cast, or affected the accuracy of voter registration information,” the PSA reads.</p> <p>The FBI and CISA warn that threat actors continue to be interested in election systems hosting voter registration information and ones that manage non-voting election processes. They also spread or amplify false claims of election infrastructure getting compromised.</p> <p>However, the agencies say these attempts cannot prevent voting or the accurate reporting of election results. In addition, they have assured the public that technological, procedural and physical controls are in place to prevent malicious cyber actors from altering votes or blocking people from voting.</p> <p>The FBI warned earlier this year that US election officials had been targeted in phishing attacks.</p> <p>The PSA comes just days after senior FBI officials warned that Russian and Chinese government-affiliated entities are promoting misinformation about the integrity of US elections.</p> <p>Facebook parent Meta announced in late September that it had removed two unconnected networks traced to China and Russia, which abused its platform to conduct influence operations. The Chinese operation, which ran across multiple social media platforms, was the first to target US domestic politics ahead of the midterms, Meta said.</p> <p>The Russian operation disrupted by Meta did not target the elections, but the FBI said Russia’s operations are more pronounced compared to the Chinese.</p> <p>On Wednesday, authorities announced that 51-year-old Eugene Yu, the founder and CEO of election software company Konnech Corporation, has been arrested on suspicion of stealing data on hundreds of poll workers in Los Angeles county.</p>

	<p>Konnech, whose software is designed for tracking election worker schedules, training and payroll, was required to keep the data in the US, but instead allegedly stored it on Chinese servers.</p> <p>Authorities did not specify what information may have been compromised, but noted that it only involved poll workers, not voting machines or vote counts.</p> <p>Konnech and Chinese-born Yu were accused by election conspiracy theorists of having ties to the Chinese Communist Party and supplying them with information on millions of poll workers.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/05 TrollStore tool threatens iOS security
SOURCE	https://www.hackread.com/trollstore-ios-tool-apps-non-jailbroken-devices/
GIST	<p>TrollStore was released on 3rd September 2022 as a revolutionary new iOS tool that lets users install any application permanently on a non-jailbroken device. This is one feature that threat actors have been waiting for a long time.</p> <p>With the arrival of TrollStore, iOS devices' security is severely threatened. For your information, device jailbreaking means modifying the software to remove restrictions from the operator or manufacturers.</p> <p>Why is TrollStore a Threat?</p> <p>That's because, due to Apple's policies, the distribution of modded applications was almost impossible than the actual modding process. The tool impacts all iOS versions from iOS 14.0 to 15.4.1.</p> <p>On GitHub, its developers explained that,</p> <p><i>"TrollStore is a permasigned jailed app that can permanently install any IPA you open in it. It works because of the CoreTrust bug that ONLY affects iOS 14.0 – 15.4.1 (15.5b4). NOTE: TrollStore will NEVER work on anything higher than iOS 15.5 beta 4 (No not on iOS 15.5, not on iOS 15.6, and certainly not on iOS 16.x), please stop asking!"</i></p> <p>According to GuardSquare, combining two newly discovered vulnerabilities (CVE-2022-26766 and CVE-2021-30937), TrollStore helps an adversary obtain root privileges and sign the tool with arbitrary entitlements. Therefore, running the app with arbitrary permissions/characteristics becomes possible.</p> <p>GuardSquare security researcher Jan Seredynski explained in their blog post that before the introduction of this tool, modded app users used to jailbreak their devices or use different approaches to install repackaged applications.</p> <p>But, TrollStore takes away this effort and dramatically reduces the need to install modified apps as the user doesn't need to jailbreak the device. There are serious repercussions for app developers because jailbreak detection would no longer remain a "valid stopgap to mitigate the majority of repackaging efforts," Seredynski wrote.</p> <p>Moreover, most common repackaging detection solutions wouldn't detect the issue because of the CVE-2021-30937 vulnerability that allows an adversary to sign the app with an arbitrary BundleID or TeamID.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/05 New Android spyware 'RatMilad'
SOURCE	https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/new-android-malware-ratmilad-can-steal-your-data-record-audio/
GIST	<p>A new Android spyware named 'RatMilad' was discovered targeting mobile devices in the Middle East, used to spy on victims and steal data.</p> <p>The RatMilad spyware was discovered by mobile security firm Zimperium who warned that the malware could be used for cyber espionage, extortion, or to eavesdrop on victim's conversations.</p>

"Similar to other mobile spyware we have seen, the data stolen from these devices could be used to access private corporate systems, blackmail a victim, and more," warned a new report by Zimperium Labs shared with BleepingComputer before publication.

"The malicious actors could then produce notes on the victim, download any stolen materials, and gather intelligence for other nefarious practices."

Distributed through fake Android apps

The spyware is distributed through a fake virtual number generator used for activating social media accounts called "NumRent." When installed, the app requests risky permissions and then abuses them to sideload the malicious RatMilad payload.

The main distribution channel for the fake app is Telegram, as NumRent, or other trojans carrying RatMilad, aren't available on the Google Play Store or third-party stores.

The RatMilad threat actors have also created a dedicated website to promote the mobile remote access trojan (RAT) to make the app appear more convincing. This website is promoted through URLs shared on Telegram or other social media and communication platforms.

After successfully installing in a victim's device, RatMilad hides behind a VPN connection and attempts to steal the following data:

- Basic device information (model, brand, buildID, Android version)
- Device MAC address
- Contact list
- SMS
- Call logs
- Account names and permissions
- Installed applications list and permissions
- Clipboard data
- GPS location data
- SIM information (number, country, IMEI, state)
- File list
- File contents

Moreover, RatMilad can perform file actions such as deleting files and stealing files, modifying the permissions of the installed app, or even using the device's microphone to record audio and eavesdrop on the room.

These capabilities are more than enough for collecting corporate information, personal details, private communications, photos, videos, documents, etc.

Zimperium discovered RatMilad after the spyware failed to load on a customer's device and proceeded to analyze the malware.

"Spyware such as RatMilad is designed to run silently in the background, constantly spying on its victims without raising suspicion," explains [Zimperium's report](#).

"We believe the malicious actors responsible for RatMilad acquired the code from the AppMilad group and integrated it into a fake app to distribute to unsuspecting victims."

From the evidence, Zimperium concludes that the operators of RatMilad are following a random-target approach instead of running a laser-focused campaign.

At the time of the investigation, the Telegram channel used for distributing the spyware was viewed over 4,700 times and counted over 200 external shares.

	To protect yourself from Android spyware infections like this one, always avoid downloading apps outside the Google Play Store, run an AV scan on newly downloaded APKs, and carefully review the requested permissions during installation.
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HEADLINE	10/05 'Maggie' backdoors Microsoft SQL servers
SOURCE	https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/hundreds-of-microsoft-sql-servers-backdoored-with-new-malware/
GIST	<p>Security researchers have found a new piece of malware targeting Microsoft SQL servers. Named Maggie, the backdoor has already infected hundreds of machines all over the world.</p> <p>Maggie is controlled through SQL queries that instruct it to run commands and interact with files. Its capabilities extend to brute-forcing administrator logins to other Microsoft SQL servers and doubling as a bridge head into the server's network environment.</p> <p>The backdoor was discovered by German analysts Johann Aydinbas and Axel Wauer of the DCSO CyTec. Telemetry data shows that Maggie is more prevalent in South Korea, India, Vietnam, China, Russia, Thailand, Germany, and the United States.</p> <p>Maggie commands</p> <p>Analysis of the malware revealed that it disguises as an Extended Stored Procedure DLL ("sqlmaggieAntiVirus_64.dll") that is digitally signed by DEEPSOFT Co. Ltd, a company that appears to be based in South Korea.</p> <p>Extended Stored Procedure files extend the functionality of SQL queries by using an API that accepts remote user arguments and responds with unstructured data.</p> <p>Maggie abuses this technical behavior to enable remote backdoor access with a rich set of 51 commands.</p> <p>A report from DCSO CyTec says that the variety of commands supported by Maggie allow querying for system information, executing programs, interacting with files and folders, enabling remote desktop services (TermService), running a SOCKS5 proxy, and setting up port forwarding.</p> <p>The attackers can append arguments to these commands, and Maggie even offers usage instructions for the supported arguments in some cases.</p> <p>The researchers say that the command list also includes four "Exploit" commands, indicating that the attacker may rely on known vulnerabilities for some actions, such as adding a new user.</p> <p>However, the analysts couldn't test the exploits as they appear to depend on an additional DLL that is not shipped with Maggie.</p> <p>Brute-forcing admin passwords happens through the commands "SqlScan" and "WinSockScan" after defining a password list file and a thread count. If successful, a hardcoded backdoor user is added to the server.</p> <p>Maggie network bridge</p> <p>The malware offers simple TCP redirection functionality, which allows remote attackers to connect to any IP address the infected MS-SQL server can reach.</p> <p>"When enabled, Maggie redirects any incoming connection (on any port the MSSQL server is listening on) to a previously set IP and port, if the source IP address matches a user-specified IP mask" - DCSO CyTec</p>

	<p>“The implementation enables port reuse, making the redirection transparent to authorized users, while any other connecting IP is able to use the server without any interference or knowledge of Maggie,” the researchers added.</p> <p>The malware also features SOCKS5 proxy functionality to route all network packets through a proxy server, making it even stealthier if needed.</p> <p>At this time some details remain unknown, like the post-infection use of Maggie, how the malware is planted in the servers in the first place, and who is behind these attacks.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/05 Tucson discloses data breach
SOURCE	https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/city-of-tucson-discloses-data-breach-affecting-over-125-000-people/
GIST	<p>The City of Tucson, Arizona, has disclosed a data breach affecting the personal information of more than 125,000 individuals.</p> <p>As revealed in a notice of data breach sent to affected people, an attacker breached the city's network and exfiltrated an undisclosed number of files containing sensitive information.</p> <p>The threat actors had access to the network between May 17 and May 31 and might have accessed or stolen documents containing the information of 123,513 individuals.</p> <p>"On May 29, 2022, the City learned of suspicious activity involving a user's network account credential," the data breach notification reads.</p> <p>"On August 4, 2022, the City learned that certain files may have been copied and taken from the City's network."</p> <p>The City began notifying potentially impacted individuals on September 23 that, among the sensitive personal information exposed during the incident, the attacker could have accessed the affected individuals' names and Social Security numbers.</p> <p>"On September 12, this review concluded, and the review determined that the information at issue included certain personal information," the City revealed in a separate announcement on its official website.</p> <p>"The information within the potentially accessed files included certain individuals' name, Social Security number, driver's license or state identification number, and passport number."</p> <p>No evidence of personal information misuse</p> <p>Notification letters sent to affected individuals also reveal no evidence was found that this personal info has been misused until now.</p> <p>Those impacted by the data breach are advised to monitor their credit reports for any suspicious activity that could hint at incidents of identity theft and fraud involving their personal information.</p> <p>The City is providing impacted individuals with 12 months of free access to Experian credit monitoring and identity protection services, as well as guidance on defending against identity theft.</p> <p>"The City treats the security of information in its possession as an utmost priority and apologizes for any inconvenience this event may cause," the breach notification letters read.</p>

	"As part of its ongoing commitment to the security of information within its care, the City reviewing its existing policies and procedures regarding cybersecurity and evaluating additional measures and safeguards to protect against this type of event in the future."
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HEADLINE	10/05 Chase UK's app-only bank in major outage
SOURCE	https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/technology/chase-uks-app-only-bank-hit-with-24-hour-ongoing-outage/
GIST	<p>A mysterious outage impacting Chase Bank's virtual current accounts has left UK users struggling to access their account balances or sign up for a new one.</p> <p>For UK customers, Chase's "Current Account" is a mobile app-only offering without physical branches or online banking involved. This leaves the mobile app as the primary means for customers to access or transact with their funds or to communicate with the bank.</p> <p>The major outage began around Monday evening but has continued well into today with Chase reporting some customers facing degraded performance while others seeing improvement.</p> <p>Chase UK's customers with a mobile-based current account have been experiencing an ongoing outage and degraded performance with the bank's app, making it difficult for them to access their accounts and funds.</p> <p>Chase Bank's 1% cashback Current Account is an online-only offering for its British customer base with access to banking services provided entirely via the bank's mobile app, without any physical branches or Online Banking involved.</p> <p>BleepingComputer observed, upon opening the Chase UK app, the users were logged out and asked to log in again, with parts of the app continuing to remain inaccessible.</p> <p>Several users also reported issues when attempting to log into the app or access their card number, which can be seen solely from within the mobile app.</p> <p>"I've been patient with their frequent outages so far, but it's pretty bad when you can't even sign in to the app - especially when your card number isn't on the physical card and only available in the app," writes one Reddit user.</p> <p>While Chase UK's current account customers are offered a physical debit card with a very real chip and a magnetic strip for in-person purchases, the card itself bears no visible 16-digit number, or the expiration date and CVV—all of which are available only via the mobile app. This means users who can't get to their mobile app can't see their card number for use with online purchases, for example.</p> <p>Ongoing outage exceeds 24 hours</p> <p>In an incident notice posted yesterday at 12:21 PM BST, Chase UK confirmed that its systems were experiencing issues but could not explain why.</p> <p>"We have a problem with one of our systems at the moment. It means that you might experience some errors today. You might have issues logging in, completing online card payment security checks and navigating the app," reads the notice.</p> <p>"Our Support Team may also not be able to answer specific questions about your account at various times today."</p> <p>This has been problematic for Chase UK's customers who depend entirely on the mobile app for banking activities, given the nature of the product.</p>

However, the bank did state, using your debit card in-store, earning rewards, or incoming payments made to the account were functioning normally.

Despite "continuing to investigate this issue" for hours on end, Chase still has not provided insight as to its cause.

The latest update from the bank posted roughly 4 hours ago states the team is seeing "some improvements for some customers at the moment," but continuing its investigation towards a resolution.

"A number of customers are still experiencing issues using the app, but you should be able to log in," says the bank.

BleepingComputer observed an email update sent by Chase to its customers today that explains Direct Debits, standing orders, and scheduled payments were not affected by the outage.

Users could also continue to use the card and digital wallet in shops without issues.

"You can't change the account your card is spending from or see your card details in the app," however, explains the email update.

"You might experience issues logging in, and see some unhelpful errors. If you are asked to reset your passcode, please do not do this. If you urgently need to check your balance, please use a cash machine."

"I know that this is not what you expect from your bank and I am sorry for the inconvenience," writes Chase UK's CEO Sanjiv Somani.

"I'd like to reassure you that your money is safe and we will do everything we can to make sure that you are not negatively impacted by this issue. Please don't hesitate to reach out to our Support team if you have significant concerns. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience and support."

BleepingComputer has reached out to Chase UK with specific questions about the cause of the incident prior to publishing and we are awaiting a response.

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HEADLINE	10/05 BlackByte ransomware new BYOD method
SOURCE	https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/blackbyte-ransomware-abuses-legit-driver-to-disable-security-products/
GIST	<p>The BlackByte ransomware gang is using a new technique that researchers are calling "Bring Your Own Driver," which enables bypassing protections by disabling more than 1,000 drivers used by various security solutions.</p> <p>Recent attacks attributed to this group involved a version of the MSI Afterburner RTCore64.sys driver, which is vulnerable to a privilege escalation and code execution flaw tracked as CVE-2019-16098.</p> <p>Exploiting the security issue allowed BlackByte to disable drivers that prevent multiple endpoint detection and response (EDR) and antivirus products from operating normally.</p> <p>The "Bring Your Own Vulnerable Driver" (BYOVD) method is effective because the vulnerable drivers are signed with a valid certificate and run with high privileges on the system.</p> <p>Two notable recent examples of BYOVD attacks include Lazarus abusing a buggy Dell driver and unknown hackers abusing an anti-cheat driver/module for the Genshin Impact game.</p> <p>Attack details</p>

Security researchers at cybersecurity company Sophos [explain](#) that the abused MSI graphics driver offers I/O control codes directly accessible by user-mode processes, which violates Microsoft's security guidelines on kernel memory access.

This makes it possible for attackers to read, write, or execute code in kernel memory without using shellcode or an exploit.

In the first stage of the attack, BlackByte identifies the kernel version to select the correct offsets that match the kernel ID.

Next, RTCore64.sys is dropped in "AppData\Roaming" and creates a service using a hardcoded name and a randomly selected, not-so-subtle display name.

The attackers then exploit the driver's vulnerability to remove Kernel Notify Routines that correspond to security tool processes.

The retrieved callback addresses are used to derive the corresponding driver name and compared to a list of 1,000 targeted drivers that support the function of AV/EDR tools.

Any matches found in this stage are removed by overwriting the element that holds the address of the callback function with zeros, so the targeted driver is nullified.

Sophos also highlights several methods that BlackByte employs in these attacks to evade analysis from security researchers, like seeking for signs of a debugger running on the target system and quitting.

The BlackByte malware also checks for a list of hooking DLLs used by Avast, Sandboxie, Windows DbgHelp Library, and Comodo Internet Security, and terminates its execution if found.

System administrators can protect against BlackByte's new security bypassing trick by adding the particular MSI driver to an active blocklist.

Additionally, admins should monitor all driver installation events and scrutinize them frequently to find any rogue injections that don't have a hardware match.

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HEADLINE	10/05 Identity crisis: glut of fake LinkedIn profiles
SOURCE	https://krebsonsecurity.com/2022/10/glut-of-fake-linkedin-profiles-pits-hr-against-the-bots/?web_view=true
GIST	<p>A recent proliferation of phony executive profiles on LinkedIn is creating something of an identity crisis for the business networking site, and for companies that rely on it to hire and screen prospective employees. The fabricated LinkedIn identities — which pair AI-generated profile photos with text lifted from legitimate accounts — are creating major headaches for corporate HR departments and for those managing invite-only LinkedIn groups.</p> <p>Last week, KrebsOnSecurity examined a flood of inauthentic LinkedIn profiles all claiming Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) roles at various Fortune 500 companies, including Biogen, Chevron, ExxonMobil, and Hewlett Packard.</p> <p>Since then, the response from LinkedIn users and readers has made clear that these phony profiles are showing up en masse for virtually all executive roles — but particularly for jobs and industries that are adjacent to recent global events and news trends.</p> <p>Hamish Taylor runs the Sustainability Professionals group on LinkedIn, which has more than 300,000 members. Together with the group's co-owner, Taylor said they've blocked <i>more than 12,700 suspected fake profiles so far this year</i>, including dozens of recent accounts that Taylor describes as "cynical attempts to exploit Humanitarian Relief and Crisis Relief experts."</p>

“We receive over 500 fake profile requests to join on a weekly basis,” Taylor said. “It’s hit like hell since about January of this year. Prior to that we did not get the swarms of fakes that we now experience.”

Taylor recently posted an entry on LinkedIn titled, “**The Fake ID Crisis on LinkedIn**,” which lampooned the “60 Least Wanted ‘Crisis Relief Experts’ — fake profiles that claimed to be experts in disaster recovery efforts in the wake of recent hurricanes. The images above and below show just one such swarm of profiles the group flagged as inauthentic. Virtually all of these profiles were removed from LinkedIn after KrebsOnSecurity tweeted about them last week.

[Mark Miller](#) is the owner of the [DevOps group](#) on LinkedIn, and says he deals with fake profiles on a daily basis — often hundreds per day. What Taylor called “swarms” of fake accounts Miller described instead as “waves” of incoming requests from phony accounts.

“When a bot tries to infiltrate the group, it does so in waves,” Miller said. “We’ll see 20-30 requests come in with the same type of information in the profiles.”

After screenshotting the waves of suspected fake profile requests, Miller started sending the images to LinkedIn’s abuse teams, which told him they would review his request but that he may never be notified of any action taken.

Miller said that after months of complaining and sharing fake profile information with LinkedIn, the social media network appeared to do something which caused the volume of group membership requests from phony accounts to drop precipitously.

“I wrote our LinkedIn rep and said we were considering closing the group down the bots were so bad,” Miller said. “I said, ‘You guys should be doing something on the backend to block this.’”

[Jason Lathrop](#) is vice president of technology and operations at **ISOutsource**, a Seattle-based consulting firm with roughly 100 employees. Like Miller, Lathrop’s experience in fighting bot profiles on LinkedIn suggests the social networking giant will eventually respond to complaints about inauthentic accounts. That is, if affected users complain loudly enough (posting about it publicly on LinkedIn seems to help).

Lathrop said that about two months ago his employer noticed waves of new followers, and identified more than 3,000 followers that all shared various elements, such as profile photos or text descriptions.

“Then I noticed that they all claim to work for us at some random title within the organization,” Lathrop said in an interview with KrebsOnSecurity. “When we complained to LinkedIn, they’d tell us these profiles didn’t violate their community guidelines. But like heck they don’t! These people don’t exist, and they’re claiming they work for us!”

Lathrop said that after his company’s third complaint, a LinkedIn representative responded by asking ISOutsource to send a spreadsheet listing every legitimate employee in the company, and their corresponding profile links.

Not long after that, the phony profiles that were not on the company’s list were deleted from LinkedIn. Lathrop said he’s still not sure how they’re going to handle getting new employees allowed into their company on LinkedIn going forward.

It remains unclear why LinkedIn has been [flooded with so many fake profiles lately](#), or how the phony profile photos are sourced. Random testing of the profile photos shows they resemble but do not match other photos posted online. Several readers pointed out one likely source — the website [thispersondoesnotexist.com](#), which makes using artificial intelligence to create unique headshots a point-and-click exercise.

Cybersecurity firm **Mandiant** (recently acquired by **Google**) [told Bloomberg](#) that hackers working for the North Korean government have been copying resumes and profiles from leading job listing platforms LinkedIn and Indeed, as part of an elaborate scheme to land jobs at cryptocurrency firms.

Fake profiles also may be tied to so-called [“pig butchering” scams](#), wherein people are lured by flirtatious strangers online into investing in cryptocurrency trading platforms that eventually seize any funds when victims try to cash out.

In addition, identity thieves have been known [to masquerade on LinkedIn as job recruiters](#), collecting personal and financial information from people who fall for employment scams.

But the Sustainability Group administrator Taylor said the bots he’s tracked strangely don’t respond to messages, nor do they appear to try to post content.

“Clearly they are not monitored,” Taylor assessed. “Or they’re just created and then left to fester.”

This experience was shared by the DevOp group admin Miller, who said he’s also tried baiting the phony profiles with messages referencing their fakeness. Miller says he’s worried someone is creating a massive social network of bots for some future attack in which the automated accounts may be used to amplify false information online, or at least muddle the truth.

“It’s almost like someone is setting up a huge bot network so that when there’s a big message that needs to go out they can just mass post with all these fake profiles,” Miller said.

“It’s almost like someone is setting up a huge bot network so that when there’s a big message that needs to go out they can just mass post with all these fake profiles,” Miller said.

In last week’s story on this topic, I suggested LinkedIn could take one simple step that would make it far easier for people to make informed decisions about whether to trust a given profile: Add a “created on” date for every profile. Twitter does this, and it’s enormously helpful for filtering out a great deal of noise and unwanted communications.

Many of our readers on Twitter said LinkedIn needs to give employers more tools — perhaps some kind of application programming interface (API) — that would allow them to quickly remove profiles that falsely claim to be employed at their organizations.

Another reader suggested LinkedIn also could experiment with offering something akin to Twitter’s verified mark to users who chose to validate that they can respond to email at the domain associated with their stated current employer.

In response to questions from KrebsOnSecurity, LinkedIn said it was considering the domain verification idea.

“This is an ongoing challenge and we’re constantly improving our systems to stop fakes before they come online,” LinkedIn said in a written statement. “We do stop the vast majority of fraudulent activity we detect in our community – around 96% of fake accounts and around 99.1% of spam and scams. We’re also exploring new ways to protect our members such as expanding email domain verification. Our community is all about authentic people having meaningful conversations and to always increase the legitimacy and quality of our community.”

In [a story published Wednesday](#), Bloomberg noted that LinkedIn has largely so far avoided the scandals about bots that have plagued networks like Facebook and Twitter. But that shine is starting to come off, as more users are forced to waste more of their time fighting off inauthentic accounts.

“What’s clear is that LinkedIn’s cachet as being the social network for serious professionals makes it the perfect platform for lulling members into a false sense of security,” Bloomberg’s **Tim Cuplan** wrote.

	“Exacerbating the security risk is the vast amount of data that LinkedIn collates and publishes, and which underpins its whole business model but which lacks any robust verification mechanisms.”
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HEADLINE	10/05 Ex-Uber security chief guilty of cover up
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/business/former-uber-security-chief-guilty-of-data-breach-coverup/
GIST	<p>SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The former chief security officer for Uber was convicted Wednesday of trying to cover up a 2016 data breach in which hackers accessed tens of millions of customer records from the ride-hailing service.</p> <p>A federal jury in San Francisco convicted Joseph Sullivan of obstructing justice and concealing knowledge that a federal felony had been committed, federal prosecutors said.</p> <p>Sullivan remains free on bond pending sentencing and could face a total of eight years in prison on the two charges when he is sentenced, prosecutors said.</p> <p>“Technology companies in the Northern District of California collect and store vast amounts of data from users,” U.S. Attorney Stephanie M. Hinds said in a statement. “We will not tolerate concealment of important information from the public by corporate executives more interested in protecting their reputation and that of their employers than in protecting users.”</p> <p>It was believed to be the first criminal prosecution of a company executive over a data breach.</p> <p>A lawyer for Sullivan, David Angeli, took issue with the verdict.</p> <p>“Mr. Sullivan’s sole focus — in this incident and throughout his distinguished career — has been ensuring the safety of people’s personal data on the internet,” Angeli told the New York Times.</p> <p>An email to Uber seeking comment on the conviction wasn’t immediately returned.</p> <p>Sullivan was hired as Uber’s chief security officer in 2015. In November 2016, Sullivan was emailed by hackers, and employees quickly confirmed that they had stolen records on about 57 million users and also 600,000 driver’s license numbers, prosecutors said.</p> <p>After learning of the breach, Sullivan began a scheme to hide it from the public and the Federal Trade Commission, which had been investigating a smaller 2014 hack, authorities said.</p> <p>According to the U.S. attorney’s office, Sullivan told subordinates that “the story outside of the security group was to be that ‘this investigation does not exist,’” and arranged to pay the hackers \$100,000 in bitcoin in exchange for them signing non-disclosure agreements promising not to reveal the hack. He also never mentioned the breach to Uber lawyers who were involved with the FTC’s inquiry, prosecutors said.</p> <p>“Sullivan orchestrated these acts despite knowing that the hackers were hacking and extorting other companies as well as Uber,” the U.S. attorney’s office said.</p> <p>Uber’s new management began investigating the breach in the fall of 2017. Despite Sullivan lying to the new chief executive officer and others, the truth was uncovered and the breach was made public, prosecutors said.</p> <p>Sullivan was fired along with Craig Clark, an Uber lawyer he had told about the breach. Clark was given immunity by prosecutors and testified against Sullivan.</p> <p>No other Uber executives were charged in the case.</p> <p>The hackers pleaded guilty in 2019 to computer fraud conspiracy charges and are awaiting sentencing.</p>

	<p>Sullivan was convicted of obstruction of proceedings of the Federal Trade Commission and misprision of felony, meaning concealing knowledge of a felony from authorities.</p> <p>Meanwhile, some experts have questioned how much cybersecurity has improved at Uber since the breach.</p> <p>The company announced last month that all its services were operational following what security professionals called a major data breach, claiming there was no evidence the hacker got access to sensitive user data.</p> <p>The lone hacker apparently gained access posing as a colleague, tricking an Uber employee into surrendering their credentials. Screenshots the hacker shared with security researchers indicate they obtained full access to the cloud-based systems where Uber stores sensitive customer and financial data.</p> <p>It is not known how much data the hacker stole or how long they were inside Uber's network. There was no indication they destroyed data.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/05 Frustration: VMFH networks still down
SOURCE	https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/article266857016.html
GIST	<p>Virginia Mason Franciscan Health acknowledged the frustrations of its staff and patients Wednesday as its computer networks remained offline for a third day following an IT security incident.</p> <p>But the health care system's parent company, CommonSpirit Health, with hospitals and clinics across the nation, including in the Puget Sound region, offered no new information about what caused the outage or when it might be fixed.</p> <p>VMFH locations continued to work Wednesday without online access to patient records and more. The health system's MyChart online access for patients also remained offline for a third day.</p> <p>The computer network outage was first announced by the health system Monday.</p> <p>VMFH, in a statement sent to The News Tribune on Wednesday evening, said: "Virginia Mason Franciscan Health is committed to ensuring patient safety and continues to prioritize patients with the most urgent medical conditions. Our hospitals remain open and we encourage anyone experiencing an emergency to seek medical attention immediately."</p> <p>It added, "We recognize this is a frustrating time for our patients and staff and appreciate everyone's patience as we work around the clock to resolve this issue as quickly as possible. We can't thank our heroic staff enough for their hard work and dedication to continue caring for our patients during this difficult time."</p> <p>An "IT security incident" involving VMFH parent company CommonSpirit Health has affected sites in multiple states, with CHI properties reporting networks down in North Dakota, Nebraska, Tennessee, Texas and Iowa, according to news coverage in those states.</p> <p>Two VMFH health care employees told The News Tribune that workers on Tuesday were given the same message as Monday: "All VMFH facilities except for VM are currently using downtime procedures with no ETA on resolution. Please be prepared to utilize manual process for documentation, orders and census management ... IT support is on site."</p> <p>A sign taped on the door outside St. Anthony Hospital emergency department in Gig Harbor warned patients that as a result of the offline computer network, "you may experience longer than normal wait times."</p>

“What (the sign) doesn’t say is that doctors, nurses, everyone, has zero access to any past medical history (notes, labs, heart studies, lung function tests, etc.),” said an employee, who asked to remain anonymous for fear of retribution.

A media representative for the state Department of Health on Wednesday told The News Tribune he was unaware of any complaints filed with the state regarding elective surgery decisions at VMFH sites during the outage.

EARLIER WARNING AND PAST BREACHES

Neither CommonSpirit Health nor VMFH have offered any more details since Monday as to the source of the incident or whether it was a possible cyber attack involving ransomware.

In July, a multi-federal agency advisory warned of “Maui ransomware, which has been used by North Korean state-sponsored cyber actors since at least May 2021 to target Healthcare and Public Health (HPH) Sector organizations.”

It stated: “Since May 2021, the FBI has observed and responded to multiple Maui ransomware incidents at HPH Sector organizations. North Korean state-sponsored cyber actors used Maui ransomware in these incidents to encrypt servers responsible for healthcare services — including electronic health records services, diagnostics services, imaging services, and intranet services.”

It added: “In some cases, these incidents disrupted the services provided by the targeted HPH Sector organizations for prolonged periods. The initial access vector(s) for these incidents is unknown.”

The advisory “highly” discouraged any payment of ransom “as doing so does not guarantee files and records will be recovered and may pose sanctions risks.”

Tacoma-based CHI Franciscan, which now operates as part of the Chicago-based CommonSpirit Health network, has suffered previous data breaches:

- In 2014, a phishing scam targeted its email network, exposing some patient clinical information, along with some patients’ Social Security numbers. In that case, hackers obtained user names and email passwords of about 20 Franciscan Health System staff members by sending them an email message purportedly from Catholic Health Initiatives, Franciscan’s parent company at the time. The scheme targeted CHI health workers nationwide.
- In 2016, the health system reported that a stolen laptop contained information on more than 12,000 current and former patients of CHI Franciscan Health Hospice. The laptop was in a backpack that also contained a day planner with the employee’s username and password.

HiPAA Journal, which tracks health systems’ compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, noted in a roundup of U.S. health care cyberattacks through June that 2021 saw more data breaches reported “than any other year since records first started being published by the U.S. Health and Human Services’ Office of Civil Rights.”

“In 2021, an average of 1.95 healthcare data breaches of 500 or more records were reported each day,” according to the report, which estimated the number of records stolen or improperly exposed or disclosed between 2009 and 2021 equates to “more than 94.63 percent of the 2021 population of the United States.”

It noted records encryption and better security practices have helped guard against such data theft.

“Our healthcare data breach statistics show the main causes of healthcare data breaches are now hacking/IT incidents, with unauthorized access/disclosure incidents also commonplace,” it stated.

FINANCIAL STRAIN ALREADY AFFECTING SYSTEM

CommonSpirit Health formed in 2019 through alignment of Catholic Health Initiatives and Dignity Health. It has become one of the largest nonprofit health systems in the United States, with more than 1,000 care sites in 21 states, serving 20 million patients, according to its website.

Virginia Mason Franciscan Health completed the merger of their Seattle and Tacoma-based health systems in January 2021.

VMFH hospitals in the Puget Sound area include St. Clare in Lakewood; St. Joseph and CHI Franciscan Rehabilitation Hospital, both in Tacoma; St. Elizabeth in Enumclaw; St. Anthony in Gig Harbor; St. Michael in Silverdale; Virginia Mason Hospital and Seattle Medical Center in Seattle; St. Anne in Burien; and St. Francis in Federal Way.

The current cyber security event comes the same week the Washington State Hospital Association warned of vast financial losses being experienced at hospitals statewide.

Losses for the hospitals totaled approximately \$1.75 billion in the first six months of 2022, a rate WSHA President and CEO Cassie Sauer and other hospital officials speaking Tuesday emphasized was “unsustainable.”

The news followed similar dismal returns WSHA shared in July.

CommonSpirit Health in September reported an operating loss of \$1.04 billion for fiscal year 2022 from its sites nationwide.

David Nosacka, chief financial officer of Virginia Mason Franciscan Health, told The News Tribune in a statement on Wednesday: “On par with other hospitals in the state, Virginia Mason Franciscan Health is experiencing significant financial losses due to various factors, including the rising cost of labor, loss of federal funding for COVID-19 patients and high patient volumes compounded by an increased number of patients waiting for guardianship to be established.”

He added: “As a health system, about 200 patients a day on average have their discharge delayed 24 hours or more due to post-acute care placement challenges and guardianship issues which impact our overall inpatient capacity. The net impact of all these challenges is staggering, and unsustainable for VMFH and other hospitals in the state.” Nosacka said the system was working to “improve efficiency and effectiveness, as well as reduce our costs, so we can focus our resources in patient care areas.”

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HEADLINE	10/05 Hospital chain reports ‘IT security issue’
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/hospital-chain-security-issue-disrupts-operations-91048801
GIST	<p>CHICAGO -- A major nonprofit health system with 140 hospitals in 21 states, CommonSpirit Health, is reporting an “IT security issue” that has disrupted operations in multiple states.</p> <p>A company spokesperson would not explain the nature of the apparent cyberattack, such as whether the organization's IT network was hit by ransomware.</p> <p>The Des Moines Register said the incident occurred Monday and forced the diversion of ambulances from the emergency department of the city's Mercy One Medical Center to other medical facilities. The Chattanooga reported that CHI Memorial Hospital was among facilities impacted.</p> <p>In a statement Tuesday, CommonSpirit said it had taken “certain IT systems offline” including electronic health records as a precaution and rescheduled some patient appointments. It would not say whether patient records were accessed. Nor did it say when the apparent breach was detected.</p> <p>The Chicago company, formed in 2019 from the alignment of Catholic Health Initiatives and Dignity Health, serves 20 million Americans with more than 1,000 care sites located coast-to-coast.</p>

	<p>Health care is classified by the U.S. government as one of 16 critical infrastructure sectors, and health care providers are seen as ripe targets for hackers.</p> <p>If patient data is accessed, health care providers are required by law to notify the Department of Health and Human Services.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/05 Australia updates law to protect data
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/australia-updates-law-protect-data-optus-hack-91084104
GIST	<p>CANBERRA, Australia -- The Australian government announced changes Thursday to its telecommunications law to protect vulnerable customers after personal details were stolen in a major cyberattack on the nation's second-largest wireless carrier.</p> <p>The changes to Telecommunications Regulations allow Optus and other providers to better coordinate with financial institutions and governments to detect and mitigate the risk of cybersecurity incidents, fraud, scams and other malicious cyber activities, Treasurer Jim Chalmers and Communications Minister Michelle Rowland said in a joint statement.</p> <p>"What this is all about is to try and reduce the impact of this data breach on Optus customers and to enable financial institutions to implement enhanced safeguards and monitoring," Rowland told reporters.</p> <p>More than one in three Australians had personal data stolen when Optus lost the records of 9.8 million current and former customers including passport, driver's license and national health care identification numbers in a hack discovered on Sept. 21.</p> <p>The hacker dumped the records of 10,000 of those customers on the dark web last week as part of an attempt to extort \$1 million from Optus, a subsidiary of Singapore Telecommunications Ltd., also known as Singtel.</p> <p>Optus ran full-page ads in Australian newspapers on Saturday under the headline: "We're deeply sorry."</p> <p>The ad included a link to an Optus website that details actions customers can take to avoid identity theft and fraud.</p> <p>The government can change regulations without reference to the Parliament. But the government hopes to pass changes to the Privacy Act through the Parliament during its final four sitting weeks of 2022 in response to the Optus breach.</p> <p>The changes would include increased penalties for companies with lax cybersecurity protections and curbs on the quantities and types of customer data that businesses can amass, as well as the duration for which personal information can be kept.</p>
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Terrorism, Extremism

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HEADLINE	10/06 Interpol, Afrapol joint operations
SOURCE	https://www.interpol.int/fr/Actualites-et-evenements/Actualites/2022/First-INTERPOL-AFRIPOL-counter-terrorism-operation
GIST	<p>LYON, France – A counter terrorism operation coordinated by INTERPOL and AFRIPOL has enabled frontline police across Africa to detect potential terrorists and seize dangerous and prohibited goods.</p>

The pan-African operation codenamed “FLASH-PACT”, aimed at strengthening the ability of border officers on the frontlines to identify suspected terrorists and dismantle the networks behind them, took place in two phases between July and September.

Using INTERPOL’s global criminal databases for wanted people, stolen travel and identity documents, and stolen vehicles, law enforcement worked together with INTERPOL and AFRIPOL to locate, intercept and stop criminals trying to cross regional borders.

Underlining the need for a pan-African, multi-stakeholder effort against terrorism, the operation involved police, customs, border forces and counter-terrorism experts, including INTERPOL Regional Counter-Terrorism Nodes in Abidjan and Nairobi.

Participating countries focused their operations at airports, seaports, land border crossings and a range of pre-identified terrorist hotspots.

Ahead of tactical operations, investigators collected and examined data to establish a clear threat picture on regional terrorism using globally sourced data from INTERPOL’s 195 member countries.

Stronger borders, stronger national security

With stolen travel documents a key asset for terrorist mobility, particularly foreign terrorist fighters returning from conflict zones, the operation saw INTERPOL’s databases queried more than six million times, resulting in some 400 hits on INTERPOL’s travel and identity documents database.

Access to INTERPOL databases at border control points saw nine people flagged as Red Notice subjects. An INTERPOL Red Notice is a request to law enforcement worldwide to locate and provisionally arrest a person pending extradition, surrender, or similar legal action.

Highlighting how terrorist activity often converges with other crime areas, more than 20 people were identified as wanted by INTERPOL for a wide range of serious crimes including fraud, money laundering, drugs and wildlife trafficking.

One man was flagged as the subject of an INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council (UNSS) Special Notice which alerts the global law enforcement community to individuals that are subject to sanctions imposed by the UNSS. The three most common sanctions are asset freezing, travel ban and arms embargo.

Several INTERPOL Blue Notice subjects were detected attempting to cross borders in the participating countries. A Blue Notice serves to collect additional information about a person's identity, location or activities in relation to a crime.

“Western and Eastern Africa have seen increased terrorism in the past decade. This is quickly spreading its devastating impact southwards, causing death, fear and destruction - a devastation for African communities and economies,” said INTERPOL’s Executive Director of Police Services Stephen Kavanagh.

“Counter-terrorism operations like FLASH-PACT are clear evidence of the joint commitment AFRIPOL-INTERPOL partnership as it allows us to share expertise on local terrorist networks, better understand their methods, motives and financing and ultimately identify and arrest those who chose to spread terror,” added Mr Kavanagh.

Officers in Uganda and Benin detained six travellers using forged passports, and in Mozambique police authorities arrested a man in possession of an AK-47 assault weapon, two magazines and 51 rounds of ammunition. In another case, police seized 360 rolls of explosives and a detonating cord.

More than 250 travellers were arrested for attempted illegal immigration, and several stolen luxury vehicles were recovered in Tanzania.

	<p>A powerful partnership INTERPOL, AFRIPOL and the African Union work side by side on matters of joint interest, sharing resources and expertise, and developing combined responses to Africa's policing needs.</p> <p>"As a regional police organization, AFRIPOL provides a framework for police cooperation at the strategic, tactical and operational levels in all African states, helping us build stronger, meaningful capabilities for African law enforcement through our partnership with INTERPOL," said AFRIPOL's Acting Executive Director, Ambassador Jalel Chelba.</p> <p>"It is important to underline the role of joint operations such as FLASH-PACT in enhancing cooperation and security for African countries. INTERPOL's support has enabled the sharing of intelligence information which leads to a greater security through arrests and seizures," added Ambassador Chelba. Operation FLASH-PACT is the first counter-terrorism operation organized by the two police Organizations since the establishment of AFRIPOL by the African Union in 2014.</p> <p>The operation was coordinated with the help of INTERPOL's Support Programme for the African Union (ISPA) which assists AFRIPOL in developing its strategic framework and operational functions across the continent and in fighting transnational crime and terrorism with INTERPOL and other regional policing bodies.</p> <p>Djibouti, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda took part in Phase one of Operation FLASH-PACT from 14-18 July. Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Benin, Burkina Faso, Congo (DRC) and Nigeria carried out their leg of the operation during Phase 2 from 4-8 September.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/05 Morocco, Spain raid jihadist cell; arrest 11
SOURCE	https://www.thedefensepost.com/2022/10/05/morocco-spain-arrest-jihadists/
GIST	<p>Moroccan and Spanish police have dismantled a jihadist cell suspected of links to the Islamic State group, officials said Tuesday.</p> <p>The operation led to the arrest of 11 people in raids on Tuesday morning: nine in the Spanish enclave of Melilla on Morocco's northern coast, and another two in the nearby town of Nador, according to a Moroccan police statement.</p> <p>Spanish security sources said 10 people had been arrested in Melilla and another in the southern Spanish city of Grenada.</p> <p>The Moroccan police said the two suspects held in Nador, aged 34 and 39, were remanded in custody and that mobile phones and a computer had been seized.</p> <p>The detainees were suspected of "promoting extremist ideology" online "in order to recruit people in terrorist organizations," the same source said.</p> <p>Morocco and Spain officially revived their security cooperation in April after mending fences following a year-long diplomatic row over the Western Sahara.</p> <p>The Moroccan police regularly announce operations against jihadist cells, and reports having arrested more than 3,500 people in relation to "terrorism" since 2002.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/05 Suicide bomber strikes Kabul, kills 4
SOURCE	https://apnews.com/article/afghanistan-kabul-taliban-4c44e23e7ea247321ffa5f4feffa112b
GIST	KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A suicide bomber struck at a center of Taliban power Wednesday, setting off a blast at a government ministry in the Afghan capital of Kabul and killing at least four people.

The explosion went off in the afternoon as workers and visitors were praying inside a mosque of Afghanistan's Interior Ministry, which is responsible for security and law enforcement in the country. At least 25 worshippers were injured, a Taliban official said.

The attack inside a fortified compound dealt a serious blow to the Taliban, who have been trying to project control and strength since they seized power in August 2021.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but the extremist group Islamic State, the main Taliban rival, has carried out a series of attacks, including in mosques, as part of a long-running insurgency. Targets have included Taliban patrols and members of Afghanistan's Shiite minority.

Wednesday's attack took place around 1:30 p.m. at the Interior Ministry compound on a main road next to Kabul's international airport.

Abdul Nafi Takor, a ministry spokesman, said the blast went off during prayers. He said four worshippers were killed and 25 wounded.

The Emergency Hospital in Kabul said it began receiving patients at around 2 p.m. with injuries and burns. Some of those wounded "reported seeing a man detonate a device," said the hospital's acting country director, Dejan Panic. "It was a suicide attack."

The mosque blast follows last week's suicide bombing at an education center in Kabul that killed as many as 52 people, according to a tally compiled by The Associated Press, more than twice the death toll acknowledged by Taliban officials.

Earlier this year, United Nations experts said the main military threat to the Taliban came from IS and guerrilla-style attacks by former Afghan government security personnel.

Their report said the presence of IS, the al-Qaida network and "many other terrorist groups and fighters on Afghan soil" was raising concerns in neighboring countries and the wider international community.

In 2020, the IS affiliate attacked a Kabul maternity hospital that killed 24 people, including newborn babies and mothers. In 2021, before the Taliban takeover, the group attacked a school, killing more than 90, most of them schoolgirls.

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Suspicious, Unusual

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HEADLINE	10/05 'Forever chemicals' found in deer, fish
SOURCE	https://apnews.com/article/science-michigan-animals-fish-wildlife-bc8f77b2935ba127c85a27eb6d07a30a
GIST	<p>PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Wildlife agencies in the U.S. are finding elevated levels of a class of toxic chemicals in game animals such as deer — and that's prompting health advisories in some places where hunting and fishing are ways of life and key pieces of the economy.</p> <p>Authorities have detected the high levels of PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, in deer in several states, including Michigan and Maine, where legions of hunters seek to bag a buck every fall. Sometimes called "forever chemicals" for their persistence in the environment, PFAS are industrial compounds used in numerous products, such as nonstick cookware and clothing.</p> <p>The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency launched an effort last year to limit pollution from the chemicals, which are linked to health problems including cancer and low birth weight.</p>

But discovery of the chemicals in wild animals hunted for sport and food represents a new challenge that some states have started to confront by issuing “do not eat” advisories for deer and fish and expanding testing for PFAS in them.

“The fact there is an additional threat to the wildlife — the game that people are going out to hunt and fish — is a threat to those industries, and how people think about hunting and fishing,” said Jennifer Hill, associate director of the Great Lakes Regional Center for the National Wildlife Federation.

PFAS chemicals are an increasing focus of public health and environmental agencies, in part because they don’t degrade or do so slowly in the environment and can remain in a person’s bloodstream for life.

The chemicals get into the environment through production of consumer goods and waste. They also have been used in firefighting foam and in agriculture. PFAS-tainted sewage sludge has long been applied to fields as fertilizer and compost.

In Maine, where the chemicals were detected in well water at hundreds of times the federal health advisory level, legislators passed a law in 2021 requiring manufacturers to report their use of the chemicals and to phase them out by 2030. Environmental health advocates have said Maine’s law could be a model for other states, some working on their own PFAS legislation.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom, a Democrat, signed a bill in September that bans the chemicals from cosmetics sold in the state. And more than 20 states have proposed or adopted limits for PFAS in drinking water, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

More testing will likely find the chemicals are present in other game animals besides deer, such as wild turkeys and fish, said David Trahan, executive director of the Sportsman’s Alliance of Maine, a hunting and outdoors advocacy group.

The discovery could have a negative impact on outdoor tourism in the short term, Trahan said. “If people are unwilling to hunt and fish, how are we going to manage those species?” he said. “You’re getting it in your water, you’re getting it in your food, you’re getting it in wild game.”

Maine was one of the first states to detect PFAS in deer. The state issued a “do not eat” advisory last year for deer harvested in the Fairfield area, about 80 miles (129 kilometers) north of Portland, after several of the animals tested positive for elevated levels.

The state is now expanding the testing to more animals across a wider area, said Nate Webb, wildlife division director at the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. “Lab capacity has been challenging,” he said, “but I suspect there will be more facilities coming online to help ease that burden — in Maine and elsewhere in the country.”

Wisconsin has tested deer, ducks and geese for PFAS, and as a result issued a “do not eat” advisory for deer liver around Marinette, about 55 miles (89 kilometers) north of Green Bay. The state also asked fishermen to reduce consumption of Lake Superior’s popular rainbow smelt to one meal per month.

Some chemicals, including PFAS, can accumulate in the liver over time because the organ filters the chemicals from the blood, Wisconsin’s natural resources department told hunters. New Hampshire authorities have also issued an advisory to avoid consuming deer liver.

Michigan was the first state to assess PFAS in deer, said Tammy Newcomb, senior executive assistant director for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

The state issued its first “do not eat” advisory in 2018 for deer taken in and near Oscoda Township. Michigan has since issued an advisory against eating organs, such as liver and kidneys, from deer, fish or any other wild game anywhere in the state. It has also studied waterfowl throughout the state in areas of PFAS surface water contamination.

The state's expanded testing also has proven beneficial because it helped authorities find out which areas don't have a PFAS problem, Newcomb said.

"People like to throw up their arms and say we can't do anything about it. I like to point to our results and say that's not true," Newcomb said. "Finding PFAS as a contaminant of concern has been the exception and not the rule."

The chemical has also been found in shellfish that are collected recreationally and commercially. Scientists from the Florida International University Institute of Environment sampled more than 150 oysters from around the state and detected PFAS in every one, according to their study in August. Natalia Soares Quinete, an assistant professor in the institute's chemistry and biochemistry department, described the chemicals as "a long-term poison" that jeopardizes human health.

Dr. Leo Trasande, a professor of pediatrics at NYU Grossman School of Medicine who has studied PFAS, said the best way to avoid negative health effects is reducing exposure. But, Trasande said that's difficult to do because the chemicals are so commonplace and long-lasting in the environment.

"If you're seeing it in humans, you're likely going to see the effects in animals," he said.

Wildlife authorities have tried to inform hunters of the presence of PFAS in deer with posted signs in hunting areas as well as advisories on social media and the internet. One such sign, in Michigan, told hunters that high amounts of PFAS "may be found in deer and could be harmful to your health."

Kip Adams, chief conservation officer for the National Deer Association, said the discovery of PFAS in states like Maine and Michigan is very concerning to hunters.

"With the amount of venison my family eats, I can't imagine not being able to do that," Adams said. "To this point, everything we've done has been about sharing information and making sure people are aware of it."

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HEADLINE	10/05 Serial tree killer baffles Oregon community
SOURCE	https://www.wsj.com/articles/gresham-lumberjack-serial-tree-killer-baffles-oregon-community-11664949734?mod=hp_featst_pos4
GIST	<p>Mike Wallace has spent months scouring thousands of photos of a forest in Gresham, Ore., looking for clues to a mystery that has bedeviled the Portland suburb for more than a year: Who is the serial tree killer?</p> <p>The natural-resources ecologist is hunting a criminal whom locals have nicknamed the "Gresham Lumberjack." Mr. Wallace estimates that someone has cut down more than 700 trees near a popular walking trail for no apparent reason, creating dangers for hikers and setting back years of restoration efforts.</p> <p>"Any time you cut down trees randomly, people get upset about it," said Dana Duval, a retiree who leads a local hiking group. "I can't figure out why anyone would want to do that."</p> <p>Mr. Wallace, who has added detective work to his normal duties of caring for the city's natural areas, has placed several cameras around the forest to try to catch the perpetrator. Most of the images are of hikers and bikers, as well as teenagers smoking pot, according to Keri Handaly, Gresham's watershed community liaison, who serves as a spokesperson for the investigation.</p> <p>"I listen to podcasts; I think it's amazing when they track down criminals after 20 years," said Ms. Handaly. "In this case, there's no murder, there's no evidence, there's no DNA."</p>

Those looking into the felled trees don't know if it is the work of one person or more, but the cuts all look the same.

Recently, Mr. Wallace noticed something unusual. The same man was appearing in photos in every area where trees had been cut down. There was no photographic evidence of his sawing, but it was the biggest break yet in a case that has cost the city \$250,000 to haul out the wood and plant new trees.

Officials gave the image of the man, who is middle-age and wiry and uses a backpack, to police and people who work with the homeless in the area. No one recognized him.

Meanwhile, the serial tree killer has grown bolder. Mr. Wallace recently discovered about 50 trees cut down in one area.

"The trees being cut are generally getting bigger and bigger," he wrote in an email. "It appears the person is focusing on cutting many trees all at once, so we have lulls between big cuttings as they try and find a new spot to hit."

Mr. Wallace first noticed a few downed trees in August of last year, according to Ms. Handaly. Soon, large batches of trees were being cut down. Vine-maple, alder, cottonwood, ash and holly trees—as tall as 80 feet and as wide as 20 inches—fell victim. Some were cut only partially, creating a danger that they could fall on unsuspecting hikers.

Gresham's police detectives, attending to shootings and drug dealing, didn't have time to help, so the city formed a task force. The team put up signs and sent letters to residents asking for people to report anything suspicious. It received a flood of theories and suspicions, but not one of the tipsters had seen anyone in the act of cutting.

Some locals have said they believe a homeless person in the area was harvesting wood to make shelters and fires. Others believe bikers were making their own trail. But the city investigation has found that none of the sawed trees have been moved or used for anything. Ms. Handaly wondered if it was someone practicing for a lumberjack competition.

"It's a very strange crime to continue to do when you don't have any gain from it," she said.

The suspect has proven difficult to catch in part because of his or her stealth. The tree cutter targets areas away from the trail. And only hand saws are used, making little noise, a detail Mr. Wallace discovered after closely examining the marks on the wood.

More than a year after the trees began falling, Ms. Handaly said some in Gresham have grown weary of the case.

"We need to be doing our regular work," she said. "If they would just stop and go away, that would be great."

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HEADLINE	10/05 Explosives washing up on Oregon coast
SOURCE	https://komonews.com/news/local/simulated-hand-grenades-wash-ashore-on-newport-area-beaches#
GIST	<p>NEWPORT, Ore. — Newport Police say three explosive devices washed ashore Tuesday, prompting several calls to law enforcement.</p> <p>Police say they responded to three separate devices that washed up on the beach in the Newport area, between Yaquina Bay State Park and Agate Beach.</p> <p>Each device was white in color and have a label attached to them that reads "Warning Explosive" and the label clearly states the item is a "Simulator Hand Grenade M116A."</p>

	<p>The Oregon State Police Bomb Squad responded and seized the devices.</p> <p>Police say if you encounter such a device, do not handle or attempt to move it. Call the police to report the location of the device.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/06 Famed New Zealand ski area missing snow
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/business/missing-snow-puts-famed-new-zealand-ski-areas-on-precipice/
GIST	<p>TŪROA SKI AREA, New Zealand (AP) — New Zealand’s Tūroa ski area is usually a white wonderland at this time of year, its deep snowpack supporting its famed spring skiing. This season, it’s largely a barren moonscape, with tiny patches of snow poking out between vast fields of jagged volcanic boulders.</p> <p>The ski area was forced to close for the season this week, three weeks earlier than planned.</p> <p>Rain repeatedly washed away the snow, and the ski area’s 50 snowmaking machines proved no match against balmy temperatures. Climate change appears to be a significant factor, after New Zealand experienced its warmest winter on record — for the third year in a row.</p> <p>The disastrous snow season comes after the previous two seasons were severely disrupted by COVID-19, leaving Tūroa and its sister ski area Whakapapa on the brink of bankruptcy.</p> <p>The two ski areas, which are among New Zealand’s largest, are owned by the same company and located on opposite sides of Mount Ruapehu. Should they be forced to close permanently, it would leave North Island, where more than three-quarters of the nation’s 5 million people live, without any major ski areas.</p> <p>Even in New Zealand’s cooler South Island, climate change is raising questions about the future of skiing and snowboarding. The sports have long been important for attracting foreign tourist dollars to New Zealand and form part of the nation’s identity as an outdoor adventure destination.</p> <p>At Tūroa this season, workers in snow-grooming machines spent thousands of hours pushing what snow there was onto trails, allowing expert skiers and snowboarders to take the chairlifts to the top of the ski area for limited runs. But there was little on offer for beginners or intermediates.</p> <p>Sam Yates, 21, this year landed his dream job as a ski instructor at Tūroa. But he estimates he managed to teach people on only about a dozen days between frequent mountain closures. On some days when Tūroa was closed, he was asked to pour coffees in the cafeteria at Whakapapa. In mid-August, he was one of about 135 workers — one-third of the staff at the two ski areas — who were laid off.</p> <p>“It’s heartbreaking to see the weather,” Yates said. “You move down here and sacrifice six months of your life to commit to skiing. When you do that and then you can’t ski, it’s quite disheartening and yeah, heartbreaking.”</p> <p>With the snow melting away and his job gone, Yates decided to pack up his van and move to South Island, where the skiing has been better. Then he hopes to follow the winter to Canada.</p> <p>Johan Bergman, the ski area manager at Tūroa, said it had been a tough season.</p> <p>“We’ve had some pretty decent snowfalls, but they’ve generally been followed by rain events, which has washed a lot of the snow away,” he said. “And it’s been a bit warm this winter, too, over the whole country, so we’re really lacking that snow this year.”</p> <p>He looked behind him at the barren mountain.</p> <p>“This should be white at the moment,” he said.</p>

Bergman said that in his view, climate change is a background factor but this season has been more a case of bad luck. And he's bullish on the sport's future at Ruapehu.

"I always see skiing up here in the North Island of New Zealand," he said.

But the poor season is putting severe financial pressure on Ruapehu Alpine Lifts, the company which owns both ski areas. Set up 70 years ago by ski enthusiasts, the company operates as a nonprofit. It's exempt from paying company tax and is required to put any profits back into enhancing the ski areas.

But there are no profits. Last year the company lost nearly 6 million New Zealand dollars (\$3.4 million) and its total debt climbed to over NZ\$30 million. The company has been seeking a major new investor, so far without success.

Even before this year's barren snow season, the company's auditors noted there was significant doubt about whether the company could continue to stay afloat. Chief Executive Jono Dean this week did not immediately respond to written questions about the company's future.

The company seems to have underestimated the threat posed by global warming. It doesn't mention climate change once in its most recent 54-page annual report, instead listing the major threats to its business as further COVID-19 disruptions and borrowing restrictions.

The National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research found New Zealand's average winter temperature hit a new record this year of almost 10 degrees Celsius (50 Fahrenheit). It was also the wettest winter on record. The agency concluded that climate change was a major contributor to both the extra warmth and the rain.

Professor James Renwick, a climate scientist at the Victoria University of Wellington, said that as temperatures increase in New Zealand, skiing will become more untenable.

"I've told the North Island ski operators more than once that things are going to become marginal fairly quickly," Renwick said.

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HEADLINE	10/05 Climate change made summer hotter, drier
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/05/climate/climate-change-europe-drought.html
GIST	<p>Human-caused global warming has made severe droughts like the ones this summer in Europe, North America and China at least 20 times as likely to occur as they would have been more than a century ago, scientists said Wednesday. It's the latest evidence of how climate change caused by the burning of fossil fuels is imperiling food, water and electricity supplies around the world.</p> <p>The main driver of this year's droughts was searing heat throughout much of the Northern Hemisphere, the researchers reported in a new study. Such high average temperatures, over such a large area, would have been "virtually impossible" without the influence of greenhouse gas emissions, the scientists said.</p> <p>Across the Northern Hemisphere north of the tropics, soil conditions as parched as they were this summer now have a roughly 1-in-20 chance of occurring each year, the scientists found. Global warming increased this likelihood, they said, but cautioned that because of the challenges involved in estimating soil moisture at a global scale, the exact size of the increase had a wide possible range.</p> <p>"In many of these countries and regions, we are clearly, according to the science, already seeing the fingerprints of climate change," said Maarten van Aalst, the director of the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Center and one of 21 researchers who prepared the new study as part of the World Weather Attribution initiative, a research collaboration that specializes in rapid analysis of extreme weather events.</p>

“The impacts are now very clear to people, and they’re hitting hard,” Dr. van Aalst said.

Extreme summer dryness that [ravages crops](#), [cripples river commerce](#) and [strains hydropower generation](#) across so much of the planet would be hugely problematic on its own. This year, though, global food and energy prices had already been rising for other reasons, including Russia’s war in Ukraine.

[Record heat](#) began smothering Europe in May, and roasting temperatures dried out rivers and fueled wildfires for prolonged stretches over the next few months. The heat might have contributed to [11,000 excess deaths](#) in France and [8,000 in Germany](#), according to estimates. Across the European Union, summer wildfires [burned a total area](#) more than twice as large as the average over the previous 15 years.

China had its most brutal summer since modern records began in 1961, according to [the country’s meteorological authority](#), with hot and dry weather reducing hydropower output in the manufacturing-heavy south. To [keep production lines running](#) at car and electronics factories, China dug up and burned more coal, increasing its contribution to global warming.

And in the United States, [nearly half](#) of the area of the lower 48 states experienced moderate to extreme drought this summer, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Parts of the Southwest and California remain stuck in a [20-year-plus megadrought](#).

To gauge the influence of global warming on droughts and other extreme weather events, scientists use computer simulations to examine both the real-world climate and an alternate climate in which humans hadn’t burned fossil fuels and emitted greenhouse gases for more than a century. They see how often weather events as severe as the one in question occur in both worlds. The differences suggest how much global warming was to blame.

Scientists with World Weather Attribution found [last month](#) that climate change had quite likely worsened this summer’s devastating floods in Pakistan, which have killed 1,600 people, damaged two million homes and submerged large stretches of farmland. Earlier, [they found](#) that global warming had made Britain’s record-shattering July heat wave both hotter and more likely to occur.

Droughts are harder to study than hot spells. Scorching temperatures and weak rainfall aren’t the only factors that influence them. Local landscape features also play a role. Plus, while sensor technologies are constantly improving, estimating the amount of moisture in the soil across large areas is hard to do reliably compared with measuring temperature or precipitation.

The authors of the new report looked at soil moisture levels from June through August across two geographic areas: the entire Northern Hemisphere north of the tropics, and a swath of continental Europe from France to Ukraine. They also looked at this summer’s temperatures and precipitation in both areas.

For the Northern Hemisphere region, the scientists found that, because the planet has already warmed by 2.2 degrees Fahrenheit (1.2 Celsius) since the late 1800s, this summer’s low moisture levels in the first few feet below the soil’s surface, where many plants’ roots draw water, had been at least 20 times as likely to occur compared with a hypothetical world with no burning of fossil fuels.

This has already made this summer’s drought a “relatively frequent” occurrence in the present climate, said Sonia I. Seneviratne, a scientist at the Swiss university ETH Zurich and another author of the study. But if the globe warms to 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit (2 Celsius) above preindustrial temperatures, as is likely under governments’ current policies, such dryness will become an additional 15 times as likely, she said.

“Basically, it would happen every year, every other year, more or less,” Dr. Seneviratne said.

For Western and Central Europe, global warming increased the chances of this summer’s dryness by a factor of three to four, the researchers found. This doesn’t mean Europe is less affected by climate change than other parts of the Northern Hemisphere, they said. Because it is a smaller area than the Northern

	<p>Hemisphere above the tropics, natural variations in the weather cancel each other out less than they do for the larger region, said Friederike Otto, a scientist at Imperial College London and another study author.</p> <p>“There is absolutely no doubt that climate change did play a big role here,” Dr. Otto said. But, she continued, “the exact quantification of that role is more uncertain for soil moisture than, for example, when we look at heavy precipitation.”</p>
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Crime, Criminals

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HEADLINE	10/06 Thailand mass shooting: 34 dead
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/06/thailand-shooting-attack-at-pre-school-centre
GIST	<p>Thirty-four people have been killed, including 22 children, in a mass shooting at a preschool centre in a north-eastern province of Thailand, police have said.</p> <p>The attacker, a former policeman, also killed his wife and child before shooting himself dead.</p> <p>About 30 children were at the centre when the gunman entered the building at 12.30pm (0530 GMT), during the children’s nap time, police and local officials said. The victims were as young as two years old.</p> <p>Jidapa Boonsom, a district official, told Reuters that the attacker first shot four or five members of staff, including a teacher who was eight months pregnant. “At first people thought it was fireworks,” she added.</p> <p>Videos posted on social media showed sheets covering what appeared to be the bodies of children lying in pools of blood at the centre in the town of Uthai Sawan in the north-eastern province of Nong Bua Lamphu.</p> <p>Local police said the attacker was armed with a shotgun, a pistol and a knife, and that he fled the scene in a vehicle. The Daily News newspaper reported that after fleeing the attacker returned to his home and killed himself along with his wife and child.</p> <p>Chakkraphat Wichitvaidya, superintendent of Na Klang police station, told Thai Rath TV that the gunman had been discharged from the police force last year.</p> <p>Prime minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said in a statement on Facebook that he offered his deepest condolences to the families and those injured. “I ordered the police chief to immediately go to the area and all the related agencies help all those affected urgently,” he said.</p> <p>The rate of gun ownership in Thailand is high compared with some other countries in the region, but official figures do not include huge numbers of illegal weapons, many of which have been brought in across porous borders over the years from strife-torn neighbours.</p> <p>Mass shootings in Thailand are rare, but in 2020 a soldier angry over a property deal killed at least 29 people and wounded 57 in a rampage that spanned four locations.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/05 Violent crime worries: homicides on rise
SOURCE	https://komonews.com/news/nation-world/worries-over-violent-crime-grow-after-fbi-data-shows-homicides-on-the-rise-crime-spikes-nationwide-violent-crime-top-of-mind-for-americans-midterms-los-angeles-nyc-crime-gun-violence-police-shootings-prosecutors-soft-on-crime-district-attorney#

GIST	<p>WASHINGTON (TND) — New numbers from the Federal Bureau of Investigation show murder rates in the U.S. remain well above pre-pandemic levels.</p> <p>Law enforcement experts are zeroing in on the homicide number as 2020 saw a 30% jump in murder rates — the biggest increase since the start of national record keeping in 1960.</p> <p>Now that 2021 numbers are showing a similar trend, leading experts say it signals a steady elevation in murder rather than a one-off year.</p> <p>Some shocking homicides have made headlines this week. A New York man was shot and killed in a hotel lobby while visiting his son at Marist College over the weekend. According to Fox News, both suspects arrested at the scene had lengthy rap sheets.</p> <p>On Wednesday, a Purdue University student was found dead in his dorm room. His roommate was arrested and charged with murder.</p> <p>Two teenagers were arrested Tuesday in connection with the fatal stabbing of a man in Nebraska, according to authorities. In another case involving teens, two young suspects were taken into custody after a drive-by shooting killed a woman and injured another in Texas.</p> <p>Murders are up 4.3% nationwide, according to the new statistics released by the FBI Wednesday. Violent crime is down slightly overall but remains notably higher than 2019.</p> <p>The FBI’s report does have some gaps. Thanks to a new reporting system, big cities including New York and L.A. didn’t submit data, leaving FBI analysts to fill in the blanks with estimates.</p> <p>Johnson attributes the rise in murders to two phenomena: the lack of support for police and the rise in “soft-on-crime” progressive district attorneys.</p> <p><i>“You’re seeing more instances in which it seems pretty obvious that the perpetrator should have been detained pending some other charges, should have been incarcerated because of some other previous conviction,” Johnson said. “But because of this shift towards a progressive orientation, a lot of these folks are out and perhaps shouldn’t be out and are engaged in criminal activity.”</i></p> <p>These crime numbers from President Joe Biden’s first year in office come as recent polling shows crime remains a top issue for voters heading into the midterm elections this November — an issue that traditionally helps Republicans.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/05 SFD: intentional fires Pioneer Square, CID
SOURCE	https://komonews.com/news/local/seattle-firefighters-investigating-intentionally-set-fires-in-pioneer-square-chinatown-international-district-downtown-seattle-seattle-police#
GIST	<p>SEATTLE — The Seattle Fire Department (SFD) and the Seattle Police Department (SPD) are warning of an uptick in intentionally set fires in Seattle’s Pioneer Square and Chinatown-International District neighborhoods.</p> <p>Seattle fire said seven fires were set on Oct. 2. They said most of the fires occurred during the hours of 2 a.m. and 8 a.m.</p> <p>The fires include five rubbish or dumpster fires, an electric scooter fire, and a fire at a business in the 1000 block of S. Jackson St. that is closed and undergoing remodeling.</p> <p>“It’s the quick succession in a small area that raises concern,” SFD Spokesperson David Cuerpo said, “Whenever there’s an open flame fire, whether it be a dumpster or trash can, if it’s placed too close to a building or the easement of a building, it can spread quickly.”</p>

	<p>Fire officials are concerned with the potential these fires have to spread if left unnoticed or unattended for too long, so SFD is working with community groups that serve Pioneer Square and the Chinatown-International District to make businesses aware of these fires.</p> <p>They also plan to circulate helpful tips and information translated into other languages to help.</p> <p>KOMO News obtained surveillance footage from a nearby business of one of the fires that was set at King and 5th Street in Seattle. The video shows someone loitering around one of the trash cans and then walking away, a few minutes later the fire erupts and eventually firefighters arrive on scene.</p> <p>Investigators with SFD and SPD's Arson and Bomb Squad said they are not releasing any additional information on the fires while they conduct the investigation.</p> <p>"We just want to raise awareness to get the message out that if you happen to see an illegal fire being set, don't hesitate to call 911," Cuerpo said.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/05 Protester files police report: on field tackle
SOURCE	https://www.king5.com/article/news/nation-world/protester-stopped-by-bobby-wagner-police-report/507-f5ef2129-1b20-4c9b-9b37-32b9c5373ade
GIST	<p>THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — A protester who ran onto the field during the San Francisco 49ers' Monday night home game against the Rams has filed a police report after being subdued by Los Angeles linebacker Bobby Wagner.</p> <p>Santa Clara Police Department Lt. Cuong Phan confirmed to The Associated Press on Wednesday that the department has an active investigation of the incident, which meant he could provide few other details. Wagner reacted with bemusement when asked about the protester's complaint, which was made Tuesday.</p> <p>"I heard about it, but it is what it is," Wagner said at the Rams' training complex. "It's behind me. I ain't really focused on it. I'm more concerned about the security guard that was hurt trying to chase him. We don't know what that (pink smoke) is. You've just got to do what you've got to do."</p> <p>Wagner flattened the protester who ran on the field waving a device emitting pink smoke. Teammate Takk McKinley also helped as Wagner subdued the protester, who had eluded security to run across the field.</p> <p>Wagner indicated that players and coaches have a right to be concerned in such situations.</p> <p>"You just never know," Wagner said. "People run on the field for no reason sometimes. Again, pretty sure it's going to keep happening, but you never know what that person has got in their pocket, their hands, whatever. ... There's consequences for your actions."</p> <p>Wagner's actions have been widely applauded around the NFL, including by San Francisco coach Kyle Shanahan immediately after the game.</p> <p>"I think that we all know where Bobby's intentions were, and I support Bobby Wagner," Rams coach Sean McVay said Wednesday. "I don't think anybody would disagree."</p> <p>Wagner said he was mildly surprised when video of his help with the protester went viral, noting that most field invasions aren't shown on television broadcasts to discourage the behavior. Peyton and Eli Manning even provided play-by-play commentary on Wagner's hit during their ESPN broadcast of the game.</p> <p>"I think a lot of players want to do it, too," Wagner said.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/05 SPD to add more patrols University District
SOURCE	https://www.king5.com/article/news/crime/seattle-police-patrols-university-district/281-e1191960-87f1-4125-b9a0-5dcef12f1dc7
GIST	<p>SEATTLE — The Seattle Police Department (SPD) announced on Wednesday that it will be adding more patrols in the University District after a violent weekend.</p> <p>On Saturday morning, a 21-year-old man was struck and killed by a driver fleeing a shooting. On Sunday, three 20-year-old men and a 19-year-old woman were shot outside of a local bar on University Way Northeast.</p> <p>All shooting victims are expected to recover from their injuries. Police have not made any arrests in connection to these incidents.</p> <p>The shootings over the weekend aren't the only recent acts of violence in the University District.</p> <p>On Sept. 23, a man was shot in an alley in the University District just after 1 p.m. He is expected to recover from his injuries.</p> <p>Then, on Sept. 28, a man called police after he found a bullet hole and a bullet in his bathtub on 11th Avenue NE.</p> <p>Seattle Police Chief Adrian Diaz said they are adding the emphasis patrols to address gun violence and ensure safety in the area.</p> <p>Seattle Police Sgt. John O'Neil said the department is still working on the plan, so it is unclear how many extra patrols will be out and for how long, but those officers will get paid overtime and will not take away from regular patrols.</p> <p>"When we see the violent crime that's happened in that area over the past month, that's something that SPD takes seriously and officers take seriously, and we're going to do everything in our power to make sure the community feels safe," O'Neil said.</p> <p>On Monday, UW's interim Vice President for Campus Safety Sally Clark released a statement that read, in part:</p> <p><i>"We all take the issue of safety in the U District very seriously. Seattle PD will be assigning emphasis patrols in the area at some designated times. Seattle police investigations into both of these incidents are ongoing, but the UW is also supporting an urgent convening of bar owners in the area to address safety concerns and how they can help. In addition, we continue to urge students to make use of other safety resources that are available to them, including our Husky NightWalk and NightRide safety escort services that are available from 6:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. every day."</i></p> <p>According to SPD's crime dashboard, there have been three homicides so far this year in the University District. There was one in 2021 and two in 2020.</p> <p>A total of 135 violent crimes have been reported in the area, according to information from the crime dashboard. A total of 184 were reported in 2021 and 198 in 2020.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/05 Retail theft plagues Puget Sound area
SOURCE	https://www.q13fox.com/news/retail-theft-plagues-puget-sound-businesses-that-little-petty-theft-charge-aint-going-to-do-s
GIST	<p>TACOMA, Wash. - FOX 13 News has obtained surveillance video and pictures from several recent retail thefts across Puget Sound, and many are wondering what can be done to stop these crimes.</p>

Tacoma Police on Tuesday reported that thieves, using a stolen truck, tried to smash-in the front windows of Skyway Smoke Cigar and Beer in [Tacoma](#). The incident happened 6:30 a.m.

Surveillance video shows the stolen truck repeatedly backing into the business.

"They were planning this for, I think, a while," said Richard Baye, an employee at the business.

Tacoma Police said a security gate, on the other side of the window, prevented the crooks from getting inside the business.

"They were arguing for 15 minutes outside. Arguing with each other, how the plan has gone wrong," said Baye.

However, just last month a group of thieves got away with several similar break-ins in Tacoma. Tacoma Police released these images of the suspects from the September 19 [crime spree](#).

Police say these crooks used a truck to smash the windows of at least nine different businesses.

Surveillance video FOX 13 News obtained from another Tacoma incident shows criminals do not always make such a mess, but still cost these business a lot.

In a video from September 6, surveillance cameras show this woman walk into Puetz Golf in Tacoma.

She noticeably has a big smile on her face as she comes through the doors. Moments later, the video shows the same woman casually walk out of the store with \$2,000 worth of golf gear. Then she runs down the sidewalk.

Crime across Western Washington

The crimes extend throughout the Puget Sound area.

FOX 13 News captured video of an apparent retail theft happening at a Covington Fred Meyer on September 27.

FOX 13 News reporter AJ Janavel stumbled upon a crime happening in the act. He announced that he was a reporter to two people who were wearing masks, and who left the Fred Meyer with a cart full of cases of beer.

One of the people address Janavel as he record the situation saying, "That little petty theft charge ain't going to do s*** anyway. Record that."

Janavel: What do you guys do with all that (the cases of beer)?

Self-admitted thief: To live.

Janavel: Do you sell it?

Self-admitted thief: We do. We make money off of it to live.

Janavel: Where do you sell it?

Self-admitted thief: That's none of your business, there.

FOX 13 News reached out to Fred Meyer and local police to see if any official crime was reported for this incident.

Fred Meyer responded saying, "We are working with local law enforcement and other retailers to help identify and apprehend the respective individuals."

We have blurred the faces of the two people in our news story, because they may not face any charges.

	<p>At the start of the summer, the attorney general’s office announced the creation of a statewide retail task force.</p> <p>The AG’s office reported retail theft cost Washington businesses \$2.7 billion in 2021.</p> <p>The retail task force met in July.</p> <p>FOX 13 News asked the AG’s office for updates on its efforts, but we have not heard back on what, if any, progress has been made.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/05 DEA: NYC largest fentanyl seizure
SOURCE	https://www.cnn.com/2022/10/05/us/new-york-rainbow-fentanyl-largest-seizure/index.html
GIST	<p>Federal authorities have accused a New Jersey woman of concealing approximately 15,000 rainbow-colored fentanyl pills in a Lego box as part of a drug trafficking scheme, in what US Drug Enforcement Administration authorities said in a news release is the largest seizure of the drug in New York City history.</p> <p>Latesha Bush, 48, pleaded not guilty last week at an arraignment in Manhattan Criminal Court, a spokesperson for the prosecutor said. She was charged with one count of first-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance and one count of third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, according to a criminal complaint.</p> <p>Bush is expected to appear in court again October 18, according to online court records.</p> <p>The New York County Defender Services gave CNN a “no comment” on behalf of Bush’s attorney.</p> <p>“Using happy colors to make a deadly drug seem fun and harmless is a new low, even for the Mexican cartels,” NYC Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget G. Brennan said in the release.</p> <p>She said fentanyl is involved in more than 80% of overdose deaths in the city.</p> <p>“If you take any drug sold on the street or through the internet, regardless of its medicinal markings or festive appearance, you risk your life,” she added.</p> <p>Rainbow fentanyl comes in bright colors and can be used in the form of pills or powder that contain the powerful synthetic opioid, making them extremely addictive and potentially deadly if someone overdoses.</p> <p>The DEA released a warning in August advising the public of this “alarming emerging trend.” DEA Administrator Anne Milgram called rainbow fentanyl “a deliberate effort by drug traffickers to drive addiction among kids and young adults.”</p> <p>The news comes as Halloween approaches, a time when authorities often warn families to inspect candy before eating.</p> <p>Federal and local drug enforcement officials arrested Bush, who is from Trenton, New Jersey, while they were conducting surveillance September 28 as part of an ongoing investigation into narcotics trafficking, the complaint said.</p> <p>Bush allegedly carried a black tote bag wrapped around a large object as she entered a vehicle in Manhattan, according to the complaint.</p> <p>When the officers stopped the vehicle, a detective found Bush in the rear seat with two black tote bags and a yellow Lego container holding “approximately 15,000 round multi-colored alleged fentanyl pills marked ‘M30,’” the complaint said.</p>

“Disguising fentanyl as candy – and concealing it in children’s toys – will never hide the fact that fentanyl is a deadly poison that harms our communities, our families, and our city,” New York Police Commissioner Keechant L. Sewell said.

Investigators believe the pills originated in Mexico. They said the case highlights the tactics of two major cartels.

“The Sinaloa Cartel and Jalisco New Generation Cartel are mass-producing fentanyl pills in rainbow colors to not only brand their products, but use colors and dyes to mimic candy and/or legitimate prescription drugs,” authorities said in the news release.

Rainbow fentanyl has been receiving attention due to the bright colors of the products, but the illicit fentanyl that the products contain represents a continuation of the ongoing opioid epidemic. The only difference between rainbow fentanyl and the fentanyl products of the past appears to be the coloring.

“The reason it’s colored is just to differentiate products. If we had a regulated market, they would be differentiated in different ways – we do not. It has nothing to do with marketing to kids at all, period, whatsoever,” Maya Doe Simkins – co-founder of the Opioid Safety and Naloxone Network and co-director of [Remedy Alliance](#), a collection of harm reduction groups that work to make naloxone more accessible – told CNN last month.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid intended to help people such as cancer patients manage severe pain. It’s 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine. It’s used illicitly because of its heroin-like effect, and even small doses can be deadly.

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HEADLINE	10/05 Man pleads guilty to posing as federal agent
SOURCE	https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/second-dc-man-accused-posing-federal-agent-pleads-guilty-rcna50875
GIST	<p>A second man accused this year of impersonating Department of Homeland Security officers in Washington, D.C., pleaded guilty Wednesday to conspiring to impersonate a federal officer, bank fraud and other charges.</p> <p>Haider Ali's co-defendant, Arian Taherzadeh, pleaded guilty in August.</p> <p>Prosecutors had charged that the pair managed to convince Secret Service agents assigned to the White House that they were legitimate DHS agents with their impersonation scheme — and labeled them a "risk to national security." Court filings showed that four Secret Service agents were placed on leave as a result of their interactions with the duo, one of whom was assigned to first lady Jill Biden.</p> <p>Ali, 36, pleaded guilty to all of charges against him. The charges indicate that he and Taherzadeh were using the agents as part of a complex moneymaking scheme, not to gain access to national secrets.</p> <p>"It was a purpose of the conspiracy for Ali to ingratiate himself with members of federal law enforcement and the defense community," as well as "to enrich himself by obtaining property by fraudulent pretenses including through a false affiliation with the federal law enforcement community," according to a court filing outlining the scheme that Ali admitted to.</p> <p>Part of the scam included conning their way into multiple apartments and parking spaces at a Washington apartment complex while reassuring the landlord the federal government would pick up the tab. Federal prosecutors said the pair were also "lavishing gifts" on Secret Service agents, including "rent-free living."</p> <p>In court Wednesday, Ali maintained that he had been tricked, as well. He told U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly that when he first started working with Taherzadeh, he believed that Taherzadeh's company, United States Special Police, was legitimately affiliated with DHS. He said he didn't become</p>

	<p>aware of the scam until the end of last year, after he had moved his family into one of the apartments fraudulently obtained by Taherzadeh.</p> <p>Ali also admitted to participating in a yearslong \$1.6 million bank fraud scheme that involved opening bank accounts in the names of straw businesses, charging purchases at other businesses controlled by Ali to debit cards linked to those bank accounts, withdrawing the money in the accounts while the debit charges were still pending and simultaneously withdrawing the profits from the businesses that had charged the debit cards, according to court records.</p> <p>Under the terms of his plea agreement, Ali agreed to seek a prison sentence of between 63 and 78 months, but the judge could go below or above the recommended sentence when Ali is sentenced on Feb. 24.</p> <p>In his guilty plea, Taherzadeh admitted to the same conspiracy charge, as well as a voyeurism charge for secretly recording women having sex in his apartment. He "showed these explicit videos to third parties," according to court documents. He is awaiting sentencing.</p> <p>A spokesman for the Secret Service declined to comment on the investigation into its agents, citing its ongoing nature.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/05 Mexico: gunmen attack city hall, kill 18
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/attackers-kill-mayor-state-lawmaker-separately-mexico-91077870
GIST	<p>MEXICO CITY -- Attackers gunned down a mayor, his father and 16 other people in the southern Mexico state of Guerrero on Wednesday, authorities said.</p> <p>State Attorney General Sandra Luz Valdovinos told Milenio television late Wednesday that 18 people were killed and two were wounded in the town of San Miguel Totolapan. Among the dead were Mayor Conrado Mendoza and his father, a former mayor of the town, she said. Two additional people were wounded.</p> <p>Images from the scene showed a bullet-riddled city hall.</p> <p>Later Wednesday, in the neighboring state of Morelos, a state lawmaker was shot to death in the city of Cuernavaca south of Mexico City.</p> <p>While attacks on public officials are not uncommon in Mexico, these come at a time when the security strategy of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador is being sharply debated. The president has placed tremendous responsibility on the armed forces rather than civilian police for reining in Mexico's persistently high levels of violence.</p> <p>San Miguel Totolapan is a remote township in Tierra Caliente, which is one of Mexico's most conflict-ridden areas, disputed by multiple drug trafficking gangs.</p> <p>In 2016, Totolapan locals fed up with abductions by the local gang "Los Tequileros" kidnapped the gang leader's mother to leverage the release of others.</p> <p>In Cuernavaca, Morelos State Attorney General Uriel Carmona said two armed men traveling on a motorcycle fatally shot state Deputy Gabriela Marín as she exited a vehicle.</p> <p>Local outlets said Marín, a member of the Morelos Progress party, was killed at a pharmacy in Cuernavaca. A person with Marín was reportedly wounded in the attack.</p> <p>Morelos Gov. Cuauhtémoc Blanco condemned the attack and said via Twitter that security forces were deployed in search of the attackers.</p>

	<p>The deaths of Mendoza and Marín brought the number of mayors killed during López Obrador's administration to 18 and the number of state lawmakers to eight, according to data from Etellekt Consultores.</p> <p>Mexico's Congress this week is debating the president's proposal to extend the military's policing duties to 2028. Last month, lawmakers approved López Obrador's push to transfer the ostensibly civilian National Guard to military control.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/05 Sheriff: kidnapped family members dead
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/US/month-family-members-kidnapped-california/story?id=90970929
GIST	<p>All four family members who were mysteriously kidnapped have been found dead in an extremely rural farm area, the Merced County sheriff said Wednesday night.</p> <p>Eight-month-old Aroohi Dheri and her parents -- 27-year-old mother Jasleen Kaur and 36-year-old father Jasdeep Singh -- were taken against their will from a business in Merced County in Northern California on Monday, Merced County Sheriff Vern Warnke said. The baby's uncle, 39-year-old Amandeep Singh, was also kidnapped, the sheriff said.</p> <p>A farm worker in the area came across the bodies of the relatives, which were found relatively close together, Warnke said Wednesday night.</p> <p>The Department of Justice crime lab is going to process the scene, the sheriff said, saying they "don't know all the facts yet."</p> <p>The sheriff called it "horribly senseless," adding that no motivation is known right now. Warnke said he was able to talk to the suspect but did not provide details.</p> <p>The family has been notified, Warnke said.</p> <p>A person of interest was taken into custody Tuesday and police had released surveillance video in connection with the kidnapping.</p> <p>"We are devastated, we are shocked, we are dying every moment," a relative said earlier Wednesday during a news conference before they were found.</p> <p>At the news conference, sheriff's officials revealed video showing the family's movements outside the business -- a trucking company -- on the day of the kidnapping.</p> <p>At 8:30 a.m. Monday, Jasdeep Singh arrived at the business in a minivan, and minutes later, his brother Amandeep Singh arrived there in his pickup truck, the sheriff's office said.</p> <p>Someone was seen walking along the highway near the business that morning, officials said. Jasdeep Singh then made contact with the suspect and the two walked back toward the building, officials said.</p> <p>The suspect was seen on video pulling out a gun and entering the business, officials said.</p> <p>At 9:11 a.m., video showed the back door opening and the armed suspect exiting, officials said.</p> <p>Jasdeep and Amandeep Singh were seen exiting the building, apparently with their hands zip-tied behind their backs, and were put in the back seat of the pickup truck, officials said.</p> <p>The truck left for a few minutes and then returned, and the suspect got out of the truck and went into the business, officials said.</p>

Less than one minute later, Jasleen Kaur and her 8-month-old baby exited the business, officials said.

The final surveillance video image showed the truck leaving the business, officials said.

The four family members were the only people in the business at the time, the sheriff said.

Authorities announced Tuesday that a person of interest -- 48-year-old Jesus Manuel Salgado -- was in custody.

Salgado attempted to take his own life "prior to law enforcement involvement" and is in critical condition and receiving medical attention, the sheriff's office said. Investigators have not been able to speak to him, officials said

No motive is known, Warnke said.

"We don't know if there's prior history" with the person of interest and the family, the sheriff told ABC News on Tuesday.

"That person right now is our sole lead," the sheriff said Wednesday.

The sheriff added that he believes at least one other person is involved.

The sheriff's office announced on Tuesday that Amandeep Singh's truck had been found on fire shortly before noon on Monday.

Police went to Amandeep Singh's Merced home around 12:35 p.m. Monday; while they couldn't locate him, they spoke to another relative, the sheriff's office said. When the relative couldn't reach Jasleen Kaur, Jasdeep Singh or Amandeep Singh, the relative reported them missing, the sheriff's office said.

Sheriff's officials then responded to the business, and "during the primary investigation, detectives determined that the individuals were kidnapped," the sheriff's office said Tuesday.

There were two bank transactions from the family's accounts, the sheriff said.

Officials said on Tuesday that detectives received information that one of the victim's ATM cards was used at a bank in the city of Atwater, in Merced County. The sheriff's office initially said a person captured in surveillance footage making a transaction at the bank matched the appearance of a suspect seen in surveillance footage at the kidnapping scene. The sheriff's office later said a photo of the person at the ATM was not the person of interest who is in custody.

The FBI, California Department of Justice and local law enforcement agencies were involved in the search, the sheriff's office said. Merced County is located between San Francisco and Fresno.

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HEADLINE	10/05 Detroit police kill man firing 38 shots, 3sec.
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/US/detroit-police-fire-38-shots-seconds-killing-black/story?id=91030791
GIST	<p>Detroit police said they fired 38 shots in three seconds at Porter Burks, a 20-year-old schizophrenic Black man, as he was in an apparent mental health crisis, killing him.</p> <p>During a press conference on Tuesday with Detroit Police Chief James White, snippets of body camera footage were shown of events leading up to the fatal shooting that occurred Sunday. The body camera footage shown involved a trained crisis intervention officer identified as Shawn in the video.</p> <p>In the video, officers can be heard negotiating with Burks, who is alleged to have been armed with an 8-inch blade knife, ordering him to put it down and offering to get him some help.</p>

"You're not in any trouble, just drop the knife and we'll get you some help," the officer said in the video. Burks can be seen running toward officers in the video before he was fatally shot.

"It's unfortunate but this was a life-threatening situation," White said. "This is a tragic situation. Any time we use force, it's not the desired outcome. Any time we use fatal force, it's the worst outcome," he added.

Burks was too far from law enforcement for a taser to be effective, White said.

Detroit Police executive team director Christopher Graveline said there were numerous officers at the scene Sunday where Burks was killed, but only five had fired their weapons.

Due to the ongoing investigation by Michigan State police, White said he is not releasing the full names of the five officers involved but they are all currently on administrative leave.

Burks was diagnosed with schizophrenia three years prior and was having a mental episode, according to his brother Damondo Anderson, who called the police for help.

In the body camera video, Anderson tells police Burks was frantic and slashed his tires. Anderson claimed he was "concerned for people" because he was armed with a knife.

Police were aware of Burks' mental health condition, according to Graveline. They responded multiple times on separate occasions -- two incidents dating back to 2020 where Burks stabbed his siblings.

"In March of 2020, he stabbed two family members, a sister...he stabbed her in both her neck and her hand," Graveline said at the news conference. "As well as a brother in the top of his head as the brother came to defend the sister."

"What we have found unfortunately is a system that has failed Mr. Burks on several different occasions," Graveline said. "That schizophrenia manifested itself into violent behavior. We have seen a pattern of him being brought to psychological services and being released and not being followed up with taking his medication."

White said that they need "help with the system."

"The system failed Mr. Burks," White said.

Fieger Law announced Wednesday that Geoffrey Fieger will be representing the family of Burks and will hold a press conference Thursday at 10:30 am.

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